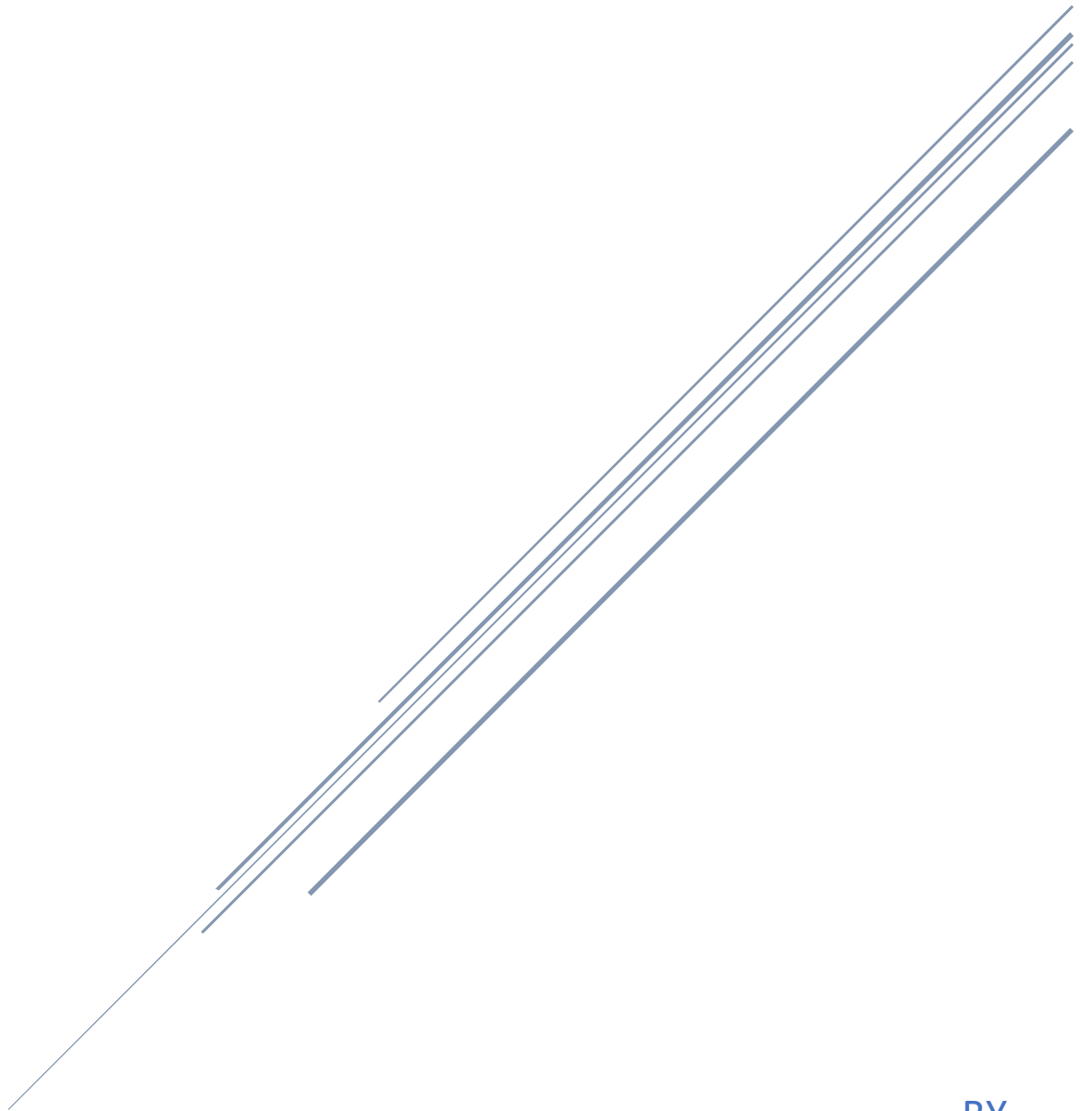


GREEN PAKISTAN, IS IT POSSIBLE?



BY
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PREFACE

In religious Madarsa, the new generation will be able to face challenges at the international level. But till now, movement has yet to be made. The general public is apprehensive about the increasing prices of essential daily necessities. Price control committees and departments still need to control prices. The factors behind this increase must be eliminated, and basic steps should be taken so that the national industrial atmosphere can fulfill the national demands. Due to imports of foreign items, the national capital is being drained, which is a significant loss and killing factor for local industries.

There is an urgent need to understand the primary reasons for capital drain. Due to the collapse of national industrial production, unemployment and inflation are increasing daily. The Government announces many plans before presenting the Federal Budget, but once the Budget is presented, the wishes and demands of the general public are always ignored.

According to a recent news report, every day, 3 million people fall below the poverty line at the international level. According to the UNICEF survey, 78% of the population lives in high poverty. At the same time, 82% get medical treatment at quacks. In this way, we have failed to provide proper medical facilities to the general public 60% of children do not attend any school, and every year, half a million die during pregnancy due to the non-availability of medical facilities. In markets, adulteration in food items is a common practice.

The scale of economic development in any country is its Budget. As per facts and figures presented by the government in the Pakistan Economic Survey 2013-14 on its

It has been stated that during the financial year 2012-13, the Government received Rs.29 trillion, 82 billion, and 436 million as revenue from the general public. In contrast, the total expenditures were declared at Rs. 48 trillion, 16 billion, and 300 million. The Government has also shown a loss of Rs. 18 trillion, 33 billion, and 864 million.

On the other side, as per page no. One hundred thirty-two of the book, in 2013, the Government borrowed Rs 9 trillion 51 billion 700 million from local banks. On page No-111 of the same book, during the financial year 2012-13, the Workers Remittances head received a massive amount of foreign currency worth US \$ 13 billion, 920 million, and 60 thousand. As per page 114, during the financial year 2012-13, one US dollar was equivalent to Rs.96.72. and the Government received Rs.13 trillion, 46 billion, 620 million, 2.5 million 37 thousand as foreign exchange.

Our government received a US \$31 million cash loan during this financial year. The government got approval for US \$2 billion, 643 million, and from this loan, foreign donors have deducted US \$2 billion, 612 million as interest and principal. Similarly, the government foreign loan in Pakistani currency amounts to Rs. 2 billion, 990 million, and 8.5 million.

In this way, the total of local loans, foreign exchange of Worker's Remittance, and foreign loans reached Rs 23 trillion, 1 billion 321 million (Rs 2301321.0 million). If we deduct the federal budget loss of Rs 18 trillion 33 billion 86 hundred 40 million (Rs 1833864.0 million) from this total, the Government has earned Rs 4 trillion 67 billion 45 hundred 70 million (Rs 467457.0 million). Moreover, during the financial year 2012-13, the trade deficit reached Rs 18 trillion 83 billion 40 hundred 20 million (Rs 1883402.0 million). However, this loss occurred mainly due to the trading activities of exporters and importers and

specific government policies. It must be noted that during the financial year 2014, every Pakistani national carried a loan of Rupees 82 thousand 6 hundred and 18, i.e. Rs 0.082 million.

Every Government, present and past, is responsible for the current economic downfall, terrorism, unemployment, the absence of a suitable educational environment, and the absence of necessities for the general public while showing them the dreams of prosperity and getting their votes in general elections. After that, all promises by the Government failed to bring prosperity to the general public. The responsibility for the disasters in industry and agriculture lies on all previous and present governments.

To emerge from this dark horizon, the powerful and influential must scrap all the wrongdoings of the past and, with a new spirit, present their revolutionary initiatives before the nation and make every effort to implement them. Every citizen, in their capacity, must wake up to make Pakistan a prosperous country. Then, Pakistan's God-given land will prosper by Allah's grace.

Shahbaz Ali Malik (SAM)

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN AGRICULTURE AND LIVE- STOCK

Human beings depend upon animals and agricultural products to fulfill their food requirement. Food items obtained from animals are considered better in terms of standard and quality. We all know from Doctors and Hakeems that milk is a complete food. This is 100% true and correct because all food elements, such as proteins, salt, fats, etc., are found in milk, which is why milk promotes physical nourishment and keeps human beings healthy. Milk and its by-products are always a part of daily diet. Daily use items such as butter, ice cream, Lassi, curd, yogurt, cheese, and different sweets are prepared from milk.

Milk is not only the best diet but also crucial in human life. Due to this, milk is a basic necessity for human life. Experts of Allopathic and Unani system of Medical Treatment advise their patients to use milk so that milk can prevent side effects of medicines. The use of milk is as old as human history, but milk for business has existed for many centuries. Nature has formulated all food items, including milk, as fuel for human life, without which human life could not survive. This is why Milk Industry owners have adopted the latest techniques to get more and more profit. In the past, only water was added to milk, which was not harmful. Now, new methods are being used to degrade milk. When the milk business took the shape of the industry, milk producers got the services of food scientists who possess negative mentalities, and to get the maximum quantity of milk, powerful injections were introduced. Through this practice, the yield of milk was increased, but negative impacts were detected in animals. It may be assumed that such injections may produce a large number of bacteria in the milk, which also negatively impacts the health of infants.

This is not the end of adulteration in milk. Recently, the Food and Science Technology Department of a university in Sindh, under the guidance of a professor, prepared a detailed report on adulteration in milk. They obtained different samples of milk. It was found that milk was once considered. The best hygienic food is now a highly un-hygienic food. This investigative report shows more than 100 chemicals are added to milk. These are starch, sodium bicarbonate, hydrogen peroxide, and CMC, which are the most prominent. These are highly dangerous for human life.

According to reliable estimates, there is a demand for many million liters of milk in Karachi, but the bulk of the milk supply is not up to the requirement. Our country's current deteriorating situation in the agriculture and livestock sectors is very alarming. On a world basis, after India and the USA, Pakistan is rated as the third largest Milk-Producing country, but during the past year, milk processing was lower than 8% in volume. Due to this, the volume of milk supply was decreased.

Our real task is to promote our country's Agriculture and Livestock sectors. Nowadays, Pakistan has 10% of the total number of buffaloes worldwide. We must adopt the latest scientific methods to increase their milk production capacity. Nature has provided Pakistan with many hidden natural resources.

According to research, cattle are not given enough food in our country. Regarding livestock, Dr. Essani says that in Pakistan, 10-15 Kg of diet (CHARA) is required for one animal, but our cattle

are deprived of this. Due to inefficient traditional techniques, our cattle are not getting proper food, so we must adopt non-traditional techniques.

Water logging and salinity are scourge of the soil, and this is a natural process. In Pakistan, there is no land where salt cannot be found below the ground. In such a situation, there is a need to promote Non-traditional crops for the benefit of farmers and the development of the agriculture sector. For this purpose, we should benefit from the ongoing scientific research on HALOPHILE plants. According to this research, the food items obtained from the Halo-Phile plant do not negatively impact cattle. Scientific research says that no cattle eat the saltiest food except for Camel. In this respect, we should mix traditional and non-traditional food (CHARA) for these; for this purpose, a reasonable percentage should be devised for mixing.

Dr. Essani says that non-traditional food (CHARA) does not negatively impact the taste of Beef or mutton. If, due to the cultivation of non-traditional food (CHARA), its cost becomes cheaper, then the prices of animals and the production of Livestock will also increase.

Regarding meat fares, the present government has taken revolutionary steps and made decisions in livestock, agriculture, and other sectors. According to Federal Minister Sikander Hayat Bosan, the present government will introduce different farm schemes for livestock, Fisheries, and other sectors to increase revenue. Initially, this program will be introduced in 100 villages, and later on, it will be extended up to 13000 villages. Notably, the livestock sector is given particular importance so that dairy products may reach rural areas of the country. The government has provided 13 billion rupees for this program, and the present government plans to run the livestock sector commercially. It has established the Livestock Dairy Development Board and Pakistan Dairy Development Company in the private sector.

According to my knowledge, the government has started a comprehensive program in which farmers and other related persons will be given technical and different types of consultation, free of cost so that the livestock sector may progress quickly and our country becomes self-sufficient in Milk production. Due to the rapid increase in the population of our country, there is a significant need to become self-reliant in milk and other related food items. For this purpose, the government should organize workshops and seminars for farmers to promote the livestock and agriculture sector. Maximum opportunities and the latest technologies should be provided and utilized in this respect. For production and development purposes, banks should provide loans with easy payment and an effective monitoring system should be established to ensure their correct disposal.

In Pakistan, the most critical problem is that in government departments and other organizations, the paperwork for such schemes is made very difficult for the commoner. Like other industries in the livestock and agriculture sectors, a ONE-WINDOW operation must be initiated. Guidance and other facilities must be provided without discrimination to get the required results for all government development projects for the livestock and agriculture sectors. The government must keep a close watch over agricultural infrastructure to ensure the success of the abovementioned projects.

As Pakistanis, we all should work hard to ensure the success of this project. As a result, the rural population of our country facing severe poverty will have employment opportunities, and due to their poverty, the burden on the urban population of our country will be reduced significantly. Another important thing that I wish to say is that in the livestock sector, Veterinary doctors are not available, and due to their shortage of unskilled doctors, instead of making animals medically fit, they throw them into several diseases. To increase the number of experts in this sector, organized planning must be initiated & special arrangements should be made for their training to exhibit excellent performance.

Daily News Paper 7th February 2007

CONSPIRACIES AGAINST THE PROSPERITY OF THE NATION

Nowadays, in media, there is only one topic under discussion, "BOMB- BLAST." The Quetta Bomb blast has deteriorated the situation. The last 20 days were harrowing for the whole nation. For the last few days, I was out of the country, and Pakistanis living abroad were also highly worried about the situation prevailing in our country.

On 26th January 2007, a bomb blast occurred in the Marriot Hotel, Islamabad, in which the suicide bomber has been identified. The very next day, another bomb blast happened in Islamabad, and several prominent public representatives, along with the local Police chief, were targeted. Exactly two days later, in Dera Ismail Khan, another bomb blast occurred and took the lives of three people. One Police officer was also killed in this blast that sacrificed his precious life to save other fellow citizens. The suicide bomber was trying to enter the procession of 9th Moharram-al-Haram 1428. After a few days in the TANK area of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, during a suicide attack on security forces, two security officials were killed while a terrorist was killed when he was planting a bomb in the Lucky Marwat area of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa. Again, the next day, rockets were fired at security forces in Balochistan. After a few moments, while trying to attempt a suicide attack, the attacker (suicide bomber) was killed, and there was no loss due to the timely and courageous efforts and skills of police officers. The suicide Bomber hailed from Dera Ismail Khan. After that, on 17th February 2007 in Quetta, 16 Persons were killed, along with a judge, and in between, various events of terrorism occurred in different locations of Quetta and other areas of Balochistan.

For such acts of terrorism, local administration may not be blamed, and it is unfair to blame them because when a suicide bomber moves on to carry out his mission, then there remains very little chance of survival. There is a significant need for influential Individuals, parties, and organizations to realize their responsibilities in their respective areas of concern. They must try to take strict measures against heinous conspiracies and preach humanity to people to stop such hyper-activities. No religion, faith, or ideology neither gives a lesson of hatred nor kills anyone without any reason. Anti-Islam forces, for a long time, have been afraid of Muslim unification and disintegration of the Muslim ummah. They are trying their level best to extend sectarian, Linguistic hatred to the atmosphere of unity and brotherhood, which is happening around the Muslim world due to specific world affairs. When foreign investors do not have enough security for their lives and investments, they will not invest in Pakistan.

Secondly, there is an outflow of capital and a brain drain. It is known that during the last decade, a large number of lawyers, scholars, judges, Intellectuals, and educationists were made targets of terrorist acts. Today, from Dubai to Europe, Pakistani investors and individuals are making money and becoming well-known in their respective fields. At the same time, the country that gave them this opportunity to grow is deprived of their capabilities. Due to this present-day situation, Pakistan faces a negative image all over the world.

Certain ground realities cannot be challenged. First, the volume of foreign tourists has reduced too much, although the government declared 2007 the "YEAR OF TOURISM." Federal Minister for Tourism, Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar, is making every effort to attract foreigners to visit highly Natural areas of Northern areas and Historical places of Punjab, Sarhad, and Sindh. Recently, the

Minister for Tourism and Culture of Sindh has arranged an Introductory meeting in Gorakh Hill, Kot Deji, Ranm Kot, and Umer Kot to get the attention of well-placed Individuals as the soil of Sindh possesses a vast and bright deposit of our glorious past in respect of culture and civilization.

If the government of Sindh adopts solid measures to prevent law and order uncertainty and provide accommodation facilities along with safe transportation passage, then during holidays, many tourists will be seen from KENJHAR to MOEN-JO-DARO. In our country, expressing regrets, sorrow, and care for the future whenever an accident or disaster occurs has become a favorite topic for many days. Still, after a few days, everything is forgotten. Due to ad hoc planning and policymaking, the result is the absence of an effective system. Accidents have become a routine phenomenon, and nothing has been done to overcome this situation. The government has declared the current year as an "ELECTION YEAR." After the completion of Gawader Port, roads for economic development were opened, and day-to-day accidents and disasters would affect our country's image. The government should improve the working and performance of state organizations and secret agencies. If any foreign hand is involved in these incidents, preventative measures must be taken to overcome this situation. All the incidents that happened in the past must be investigated by efficient and intelligent officers, and through them, a policy should be laid down that will ultimately prevent such incidents in the future.

It is highly frustrating that such incidents are becoming a routine practice. At this stage, the Pakistani nation, political leadership, religious personalities, and other segments of our society, ignoring their mutual differences and realizing their national responsibilities, should adopt such concrete plans that our beloved motherland must pass through the deteriorating situation safely. Every citizen's life and property are more important and superior to the differences. If this does not happen, the whole affair will reach a point of NO-RETURN, which is open to all persons with vision.

We appreciate that the federal government has asked the opposition to suggest how to end terrorism. No doubt this is a national issue, and the President of Pakistan has rightly said that the government alone cannot prevent terrorist attacks and public cooperation is indispensable. Acts of terrorism and sabotage are badly affecting the national economy and civilization, and until & unless Pakistan becomes a peaceful and secure country for citizens, prosperity, economic development, and dreams of solidarity will never be fulfilled. Prevent dangers and threats to citizens' lives and property is only possible in such a way that the government should establish an organization such as CPLC (Citizen Police Liaison Committee) in which journalists, business people, scholars, intellectuals, and religious scholars should be included and this organization should take measures to reduce the decade long behavior of our Police towards the general public. In our country, our general public, while facing any threat and unwanted situation, does not bother to inform the police to avoid their interrogation and frequent calls to appear before police officials and prefers to be silent. In some countries, people who identify in such a situation, the local Police award them certificates, and their government provides valuable gifts. Such patriotic people are given particular protocols as appreciation, and others are prompted to follow them.

Eradicating terrorism from our country could only be carried out with the joint efforts of the government and the opposition. During the ASHURA days of Moharram-al-Haram, the spirit of

sectarian coordination shown by the nation was remarkable. The same spirit of unity must be maintained throughout the year, as this is the day's demand. Through this, our country would become safe from expected dangers to its solidarity.

Daily News Paper 21th February 2007

REASONS FOR THE DECLINE OF SINDH'S AGRICULTURE

Agriculture, the backbone of our National Economy, is currently in a crisis. In Thatta (Sindh), Tomato Farmers are grappling with a severe crisis, leading to a drastic fall in tomato prices. The situation is not just Dire; it's a ticking time bomb, and immediate action is the only way to defuse it.

The neighboring District of Badin has also been hit hard, with the sunflower crop suffering an irrecoverable loss due to heavy rains. The impact on the local community is heart-wrenching, with farmers forced to crush their crops to make way for new ones. This week, farmers in District Badin faced severe hardship, with an area of Three thousand acres experiencing an irrecoverable loss. The situation is dire, and the local community desperately needs support.

People in the LARR area have been facing severe problems for the last ten years. In 1999, the worst sea-flow disaster, then the quake and heavy rains along with a decade of drought, converted this area into a desert, and the prosperity of the area disappeared. Once, district Badin was called a sugar state. Then, oil and gas deposits were found in this area, further developed, but now, heavy poverty can be seen everywhere. In this area, the lack of water has caused the heaviest loss. The water of River Indus does not flow from Kotri Barrage and Jamshoro to Kety Bander; sand flows everywhere into River Indus, so the fertile land is being lost and submerged into the sea, and up to now, millions of acres of the fertile land of Thatta and Badin Districts have been submerged into the sea. This is only the situation of neighboring districts of the provincial capital. It can be assumed that the situation of Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Ghotki, Larkana, and Kashmore Districts will be the same.

2004, during the Sindh assembly session, the house was informed that 1.2 million 55-thousand-acre lands had been submerged in Sindh. This is because River Indus water does not fall into the sea. In this area of Land, 1.2 million 16-thousand-acre land was government property, whereas the remaining area was the ownership of local people. There was an exciting aspect of this issue which was narrated in the assembly that in the past, as per the Sindh Revenue Act, the area of land sub-merged into the sea or due to the silting of the Indus River, alternative land was provided to them, but when Punjab Revenue Act was introduced and as there is no sea in Punjab Province so that in Punjab Revenue Act, the clause of land submerged into the sea was not included and due to this legal flaw an amendment order was issued in 1979, according to which the clause for compensation or provision of alternate land was included for the land submerged into sea. As per a survey done in 1999, the Arabian Sea has swallowed 1.2 million acres of land, but the most astonishing aspect of this issue was something else. Not a single affected person submitted any application for compensation or alternative land. That was the government version. Maybe officials of the Revenue Department. Irrigation or other government officials have not included such applications in government records because corruption has affected every area of our society. Now, giving bribes or using a source for genuine work is compulsory. It is now necessary for the government to prioritize the welfare of farmers.

The government has declared Umer Kot, Mirpurkhas, and Thar districts as the worst affected and exempt from tax payments. Still, revenue officials are collecting taxes because the bureaucracy has changed the announcement of the exemption tax. Chief Minister Arbab Ghulam Rahim and

the Minister of Concerned department tried to achieve this goal but failed. Another problem is here. When an affected person does not possess enough money to pay taxes today, how will he pay taxes tomorrow? When rains have destroyed crops, revenue collection must not be exempted so that affected people may get natural relief. There is a massive rise in the cost of living, and when the Prime Minister announced a subsidy on chemical fertilizer prices, the outcome was reversed and against the decision. Despite the announcement of government subsidies, the dealers increased the selling rates and made many times more profit, which was illegal.

At this stage, agriculture department officials, instead of providing relief to farmers, covered up dealers' misdoings. This type of negligence is becoming a total disaster in the agriculture sector, and there seems to be no solution to this crisis.

It is not just crucial; it is the government's duty to review the situation and remove all barriers hindering the progress of the agriculture sector. The supply of substandard seed and fertilizer, second-grade agriculture pesticides, and insufficient water must be addressed. Additionally, the government should consider reducing or abolishing certain taxes to stabilize the sector. These measures, if implemented, could bring about a positive change and restore the prosperity of our National Economy.

Daily newspaper 5th March 2007

GULF, MIDDLE EAST CRISIS AND ROLE OF PRESIDENT PARVAIZ MUSHARAF

The convention of Foreign Ministers of seven Muslim countries held in Islamabad recently was the outcome of the continued efforts of President General Pervez Musharaf, for which he had been working for a long time. Before this convention, the President made emergency visits to nine Muslim countries. After this initial effort, this convention was held in the last week of February 2007, & Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Jordan, Malaysia, and Indonesia participated. Their Pakistani counterpart, Khurshid Mahmood Qasoori, hosted this convention. At the same time, due to Mr. Ehsan Oglu, Secretary General of the Islamic Conference, the importance of this conference was increased. In their declaration, the conference demanded that power not be used against Iran. Israel must vacate the territories of Syria & Lebanon. A Palestinian state should be established with Jerusalem's capital (Bait-al-Muqqadas). The sovereignty and solidarity of Iraq should be made definitive. The Islamabad conference was a group of 7 like-minded countries with the same reservations in the same circles. This was the beginning of the American agenda in the Middle East. But this impression was rejected entirely when these circles were shown those declarations of Pakistan, Egypt, and Jordan, along with other participating countries, in which Israel was condemned, and the USA was pressed not to use power in the area. This accurately represented the feelings and sentiments of the Muslim world. There is no restriction over other Muslim countries to join this group; therefore, more Muslim countries should come forward to resolve the problems of the Muslim world.

Sentimental statements, hate speeches, and slogans are not solutions to problems. Kashmir, Palestine, Cyprus, and the right of self-determination of Muslims in many big countries have failed only due to the reason that instead of taking the right directions with the proper steps, it took a sentiment look. Muslim Foreign Ministers have termed the Palestinian conflict as a fundamental issue of the Middle East and stressed resolving it in the light of resolutions of the United Nations. When Mr. Khurshid Mahmood Qasoori addressed the press conference at the end of the meeting, this issue was the main focus of his speech. Foreign Ministers have also expressed their concern over the Israeli attitude in the Middle East and also condemned the desecration of the AL-AQSA Mosque. All agreed that the international community should aid the Palestinian government to restore economic activities in Palestinian territory.

Mr. Khurshid Mahmood Qasoori said in the conference that we are not doing anything to advance the American agenda, although we have differences with the USA on many issues.

He also rejected American objections over the Iran, Pakistan-India gas pipeline project and said that in this case, all decisions are being made only in the best national interest. Now, it has become necessary that the Muslim world at regional and international levels should eliminate their internal conflicts. They should adopt a unified line of action over "Issues" to promote cooperation instead of traditional steps, including Iran, Palestine, and Kashmir. Diplomatic efforts should be accelerated, and the USA, along with its European allied countries, should be told that they could take any bold and big decision over the desecration of the AL-AQSA Mosque. Although there is no towering personality like King Faisal in the Middle East, who is highly respected and

can take decisive actions, nobody can deny that every period of life has problems that could be solved by available leadership.

Today, President Pervaiz Musharaf has taken the first step, which should be appreciated because the present-day situation demands realistic, positive steps and statesmanship. This conference of like-minded countries is a positive movement in the right direction. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz showed the same thinking during conversations with Foreign Ministers of Islamic countries.

According to news reports, he has said that to resolve the present challenges, the Muslim world should exhibit Broad-Mind because if this situation prevails, the problem will worsen. Before this, President Pervaiz Musharaf contacted the head of a Palestinian state, Mr. Mahmood Abbas, and informed him about the recent peace mission. He also brought the attention of Muslim Foreign Ministers to the reality that to get stability in the Middle East, a sound and solid solution to the Palestinian problem is much more important. For this purpose, joint efforts and new steps should be taken. He said that this problem was the biggest reason for the extremism in the Muslim world. Pakistan is playing a leading role at this stage because if Iran comes under attack, then Pakistan will also be affected badly, and the consequences and aftereffects will affect not only thereby all countries but even the entire world. This will not be only a war of two civilizations. Islamabad conference has also attempted to prevent this war, and Pakistani leadership has brought the attention of other Muslim countries to move this mission forward. The fast-changing world political situation demands actions carrying a visionary approach. The recent visit of US Vice-President Dick Cheney has been seen in the same background in which Iran was the center-point of discussion.

Maybe today, some circles do not express their view, even realizing the government's unwillingness. Still, this situation is like a walk over a tightrope in which Pakistani leadership faces dangers at every step. On the one side is brother country Iran, and on the other side is the rest of the world. There is a power system that possesses no balance, and after its end now, America alone is making decisions in collaboration with their European allied countries. Therefore, sentimental speeches will not resolve the issue but complicate the situation.

Islamabad conference of Foreign Ministers of Islamic countries was a positive step in discussing Kashmir, Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Iran's current situation, which can be termed as the first drop of rain. In association with the Organization of Islamic Countries (O.I.C), this group of Muslim countries should initiate diplomatic efforts. An effective delegation should be constituted that, with a due representative of sentiments, feelings, and ambitions, should hold dialogues with the heads of the states of the USA, UK, and other big countries. They can press them because these problems and issues are carrying the Muslim world towards extremism.

Conflicts must be resolved if this world is to become a land of peace. To resolve these issues and problems, diplomacy, instead of slogans, must be adopted as an effective tool because, in this world, all conflicts and problems are resolved over the dialogue table. INSHALLAH, the present-day issues will be resolved with mutual understanding. Now, the time has come when "Dialogue of Conversation" should be the center-point of our efforts.

After all these clear impressions, it becomes necessary that the Muslim world at the regional and international levels should eliminate their internal conflicts and collisions and promote cooperation. Instead of traditional steps, they should adopt a unified line of action over "Issues" including Iran, Palestine & Kashmir. Diplomatic efforts should be accelerated, and the USA, along with its European allied countries, should be told that they can take any bold & big decision over the desecration of the AL-AQSA Mosque. Although there is no towering personality like King Faisal in the Middle East, who is highly respected and can take decisive actions, nobody can deny that every period of life has problems that could be solved by available leadership.

INDIAN BUDGET AND THREATS FACING PEACE IN THE REGION

Is the massive increase in India's Defence Budget a reasonable step in the right direction? This question is highly praised in the National Newspapers and Electronic media because of the Rs. 960 billion Indian Defence Budget with an increase of Rs. 70 billion; military experts of Pakistan, Srilanka, Burma, China, and Bangladesh are making objections. Indian Finance Minister Chadam Baram has told Lok Sabha that India will sign agreements with other countries to purchase defense equipment, and the Indian Air Force will also be equipped with the latest equipment.

It should be remembered that last year, the Indian defense budget was Rs. 890 billion, whereas now it has reached Rs. 960 billion. India is compassionate about its air force, and recently, with Russia's cooperation in Tajikistan, India constructed an airbase. For this purpose, these three countries signed an agreement in 2003. In the 80s, the former Soviet Union used this airbase. In 1985, the Soviet Armed Forces were fighting in Afghanistan, and this Airbase was re-structured to accommodate 800 million people.

Recent developments include India increasing its defense budget alarmingly and President Dr. Abdul Kalam signing a nuclear agreement with the USA.

According to this agreement, the USA will provide India with all aid and security. The document is 2500 pages long. Initially, the Indian Defence Department and Bhartiya Janta Party made some reservations, but these have been cleared. Now, it is stated that Indian interests have been protected in this document.

India and Pakistan are neighbors involved in some fundamental controversial issues: Kashmir, Junagadh, Sircreek, Siachin, Financial Assets, and ownership issues of Jinnah House located in Bombay. However, there were notable changes after Pervaiz Musharaf's era of government. After many armed conflicts between the two countries, both leadership and the public consider a peaceful solution to these issues as a Mandatory condition. However, due to India's record defense budget, the question arises: against whom will this vast stock of arms and ammunition be utilized?

It would be wise if the USA, European Union, United Nations, and other organizations took matters seriously and saved South Asia from becoming a storehouse of arms and ammunition. When India spends a significant portion of its defense budget, neighboring countries will have to follow in this race under compulsion, and the whole region will be involved.

There is an opinion in well-respected circles that, like all countries of South Asia, Indian people are also facing economic hardships. If India spent this huge amount on the elimination of poverty, then it would be a bright example for other countries. Not only for India and Pakistan, but friendly relations are necessary for all countries. For this purpose, instead of increasing defense expenses, we should place our positive and constructive work. President General Pervaiz Musharaf has presented many suggestions for ending differences, which may become the region's first step toward lasting peace. President Pervaiz Musharaf, during an interview given to the Indian magazine "Front Line," has rightly said that if the Kashmir issue has been resolved, then there may be chances of an agreement of mutual peace, friendship, and cooperation between India and Pakistan.

If the “universal law of power” is followed, South Asia, particularly the sub-continent, will become a highly peaceful region. President Pervaiz Musharraf, during an interview with “Front line Bharat” last year, proposed to make Kashmir a Non-Military area by Pakistan. At present, the highest military expenses are made by the USA, which possesses the No.1 rank, while India is placed at the 10th Position. Per head, military expenses of the USA are \$1604/- while its ratio in the world population is less than one percent. At the same time, the military costs of Korea, Canada, Australia, Spain, and Israel are less than those of India. It was mentioned in a report that in terms of overall global military expenses, the USA possesses a 48% share, the UK and France 5.5%, while Japan and China have a 4.4% share. Russia's and India's defense budgets are 2.2% on this list. Pakistan is not included in the list of the first fifteen countries that spend significantly on defense, and global military expenses have reached 1118 billion dollars. However, after the fall of the Soviet Union, a vast reduction was expected.

The solution to fundamental issues is crucial to eliminate the prevailing tension in the region and for the foundation of peace. After that, the sub-continent and South Asia could become a peaceful region. The Indian logic that it is bound to keep stock of arms due to neighbors is not acceptable by any means because Srilanka, Burma, and Bangladesh are not a threat to India. Pakistan has offered many proposals for peace, which are on record. The leftover country is China, whose relations with India are improving. At this stage, the advice from intellectual circles is quite logical: Indian leadership should seriously consider the offer made by President Musharraf and make way for the creation of peace so that this region will not become a store of arms.

Daily Newspaper 14th March 2007

KARACHI- PRESENT SITUATION AND ECONOMIC DISASTER

A pagan dance of fire and bullets has ruined the charm and beauty of Karachi. There were long protests and unrest in this metropolis. The image of Pakistan and Karachi was particularly tarnished. Who is responsible? Let us leave this debate because this is not my subject, and when the commercial capital of Pakistan has been thrown to fire and blood and when involved parties were armed with weapons instead of arguments, then who could be blamed? Who will listen to a meek voice in a cause?

For a long time, Karachi has been the center of total lawlessness, confrontation, and unrest. From every area of the city, dead bodies were recovered. Industries were closed, commercial centers were deserted, and construction projects were left without completion. But for the last many years, when President General Parvaiz Musharraf gave attention to Karachi, and a package of 29 billion rupees was collected from various national institutions whose head offices were located in Karachi, then the construction of underpasses, flyovers, and lengthy roads and highways were started. When development work began, then the face of the city started changing. Foreign investors started arriving in Karachi, and many construction schemes, including new towns in adjacent islands of Karachi, will shift this metropolis when completed.

The painful day of 12th May 2007 and the following 48 hours have washed out so many facilities in Karachi. During this period, daily consumption items were short of supply. From Thatta, a truck loaded with vegetables and fresh milk from the cattle colony and vans loaded with eggs and bread were not allowed to enter the city. How, under those circumstances, the citizens of Karachi lived is another long story. Furthermore, all petrol pumps in the town were closed entirely. The smuggled petrol, earlier on the footpath at Rs.45 per liter, reached Rs.60 per liter. The water tanker service was also closed because diesel was not available.

During this worst crisis, the persons dependent on daily wages were severely hurt, and traders earned a lot of money by raising the prices of daily consumable items. Some friends told me there were no rickshaws or taxis on the roads, and the available few demanded skyrocketing fares. When high temperatures, absence of light and water, and deep fear over the citizens surrounding them, the accurate picture of the city could not be explained in words.

The foreign media's comments on the country's overall situation were eye-openers. Due to these disturbances, the economy was severely hurt, and there were heavy chances of adverse effects on foreign investments. Fear and lawlessness for 72 hours also negatively impacted the business of 4-star and 5-star hotels. This situation could be seen after visits to these hotels. Their traditional attraction and activities have been over. One informed person told me that Karachi-bound passengers had postponed or canceled their programs for the next two or three weeks, and most people staying in the city had already left for their homes.

According to a news report, some countries have issued travel advice for Pakistan to their citizens, which has negatively impacted business activities and is not hidden from anyone. Last week, the crisis in the Karachi stock exchange was also due to a wave of uncertainty and depression hovering

all over the country. The reason for presenting a detailed description of the overall situation is not to spread a negative impression on fellow citizens. This aspect of the problem results in horror when rumors, fears, and disasters occur in a continuation.

Due to the hostile business environment, foreign investors preferred selling out their shares, which caused prices to drop. Movement in the stock exchange was slow.

Karachi's current situation results from the deliberate ignorance of public interest, which has stalled economic development for many years.

We humbly appeal to all conflicting parties to realize the sufferings of this city, which its citizens have recently experienced. To save them from further backwardness, all types of rallies, public gatherings, and protests must be stopped because the continuity of unfavorable conditions is unsuitable. This only creates a bulk of problems and issues for the general public. Furthermore, instead of issuing statements to speed up the situation more, it is necessary to take such steps. The situation turns peaceful, and the sentiments of aggressive people cool down.

In politics, the views and stands of any conflicting party may be anything, and everybody possesses the moral, legal, and constitutional right to act upon his political ideas. If, in this process, the other party faces damages, then a detailed and logical observation of the situation is needed. This column has expressed these views with great regret and grief, although it's not my writing style. But what else could be done when millions of laborers are bound to be hungry, and protests daily reduce the city's development graph? Due to disturbances of one day in the city, an estimated loss of Rs.5 billion is recorded, and other losses along with exports are included. When the closure of a small factory causes a loss of millions of rupees to the owner, and he becomes economically ruined, what will happen when all shops, markets, mills, and factories shut down for three continuous days? This could only be assumed.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FACING THREATS

Following a nominal reduction in gas tariffs, the recent surge in power tariffs has disheartened traders and industrialists. However, the ordinary person will bear the brunt of this increase in two ways. Firstly, his domestic bill will skyrocket, putting a strain on his already tight budget. Secondly, inflation will surge, making the cost of living unbearable. Over the past few years, the government has hiked the power tariff more than 18 times, a trend that is pushing the commoner further into financial distress. This situation is unsustainable and detrimental to the nation's overall economic health.

During his visit to Islamabad in March 2007, World Bank advisor John Paul made a poignant observation. He highlighted the alarming levels of poverty and unemployment in Pakistan, leading to a significant wealth gap. He stressed the importance of equity in economic development, stating that it's the only way to prevent societal collapse. In the era of globalization, he noted that skilled individuals earn significantly more than their unskilled counterparts. This underscores the need for Pakistan to invest in skill development to compete in international trade and bridge the wealth gap.

This week, regarding the soap industry, a spokesman for manufacturers said that due to heavy taxes, most industrial units have been closed, and many others are fighting for their survival. They said the government should use the present sales tax system and review the utility tariff. This is not the problem of the soap industry alone; textile, leather, and other sectors are also facing the same issues. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has been associated with international organizations and possesses a deep insight into world trade. He is aware that an investor and investor always gives priority to a place of basic facilities. What is the reason that Pakistani investors are moving towards UAE, Bangladesh, and other countries today? These affairs need attention from the Prime Minister and how more positive results could be obtained by removing hurdles. This is not correct to say that the government is not doing anything. No doubt, the administrative committee of the National Economic Council (AECNEC) has approved in their meeting this week 28 projects carrying a total amount of Rs. 1 trillion. In the same meeting, it was observed that this year, the volume of remittances by overseas Pakistan is expected to reach more than five billion dollars.

Federal Minister of Water & Power Liaquat Jatoi recently revealed that WAPDA is grappling with a deficit of Rs.97 billion. To curb bank corruption, price hikes are deemed inevitable. Despite a recent increase, the government will still subsidize Rs.54 billion to WAPDA. Jatoi points out that the power tariff is still lower than that of India and Sri Lanka. However, the reality is that Pakistani products are facing fierce competition from India, and the current surge in power tariffs could be catastrophic. Therefore, it's not just necessary but crucial to control the prices of Power, Gas, and Oil. This is the only way to realize the vision of a stable national economy that government dignitaries often proclaim. The consequences of inaction could be severe, potentially leading to a significant economic downturn.

TEXTILE INDUSTRY FACING CRISIS

An increase in power tariffs, nominal reduction in gas prices, and skyrocketing petroleum rates will negatively impact the National Economy. This question has been under-discussed in commercial and industrial circles for the last two days. In particular, exporters believe that if production costs increase, it will not be possible for them to compete in international markets. This opinion and other similar problems and barriers are pretty logical. Mainly due to the recent rising acts of terrorism, migration of investment has badly affected Pakistan, and due to these acts, negative impacts are developing. What was expected in the growth of the national economy is not suitable.

After the 9/11 events, the situation was wisely controlled by Pakistani leadership, and even today, in terms of the national economy's growth rate, Pakistan is the 6th largest country in Asia. If it continuously improves, this level can be further increased. Textiles are important in the export sector; nowadays, this sector faces severe difficulties. Unfortunately, a section of Pakistani democracy thinks that business people and industrialists are a source of tax collection, although they are essential for earning foreign exchange. President Pervaiz Musharaf has adopted a policy that aims to improve economic growth, but this target can only be achieved when all barriers and hurdles are removed with sincerity. In the present circumstances, there is a need for such planning, and the ultimate result must be in favor of the typical person. This ordinary man may be a farmer, laborer, trader, industrialist, or businessperson. They are all segments of our society, and the positive impacts will be shown when everyone becomes prosperous.

Concerning textiles, the Pakistani government should press their allied countries to remove unnecessary sanctions on Pakistani textile products. These sanctions are significant hurdles in selling Pakistani products in these countries, mainly Europe and the USA. Those sanctions are also a big hurdle in the development of the Pakistani economy. In this connection, European Union and American officials must be taken in confidence so that by adopting relaxed policies, there will be feelings and sentiments of friendly relation along with satisfaction at the government level and side by side also at the public level and in the Industrial sector.

Last week, according to a report, many textile industrial units have been closed, and many more are facing the dangers of closure. Closure of a factory is not only a loss to an Industrialist but also affects a large portion of the population, particularly the labor class. The agriculture market depends upon it; the tax collection is affected most. Due to these factors, negative results appeared in the national economy. At the moment, it is essential for the concerned Ministry and Department to jointly organize a broad-based dialogue to formulate a reasonable and concrete policy. The proposal for the textile city in Karachi faces certain hurdles which must be reviewed and removed. In the future, such planning may be initiated through which the gap between announcements and implementation may be minimal, and the industrial sector should be given facilities, not only promises. The trade deficit should be reduced. Pakistan faces tough competition in the international market with India, Bangladesh, and China. Due to high production costs, Pakistani products face more problems than other countries. High-profit rates on bank loans, high prices of power, gas, and petrol, as well as other issues during the production of goods, also increase manufacturing costs.

A recent survey regarding Pakistan observed that the textile sector earned 40% of national products, 65% of exports, and nearly 14% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product). Besides this, 50% of the share belongs to the textile sector in eliminating unemployment. Some circles state that due to damaging policies in Pakistan, the outcome is the fast development of the textile sector in India and Bangladesh. The recent directives issued by President Pervaiz Musharraf over the briefing of ten years of planning projects for the economy are highly encouraging. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has said that an investment of six billion dollars is expected during the current financial year, which will be higher by 3.8 billion dollars than the previous year.

In this respect, efforts made by the president and the prime minister are of considerable importance. If in the same style and spirit, subordinate departments and government machinery sector hard so that many records could be broken. That's why the President of Pakistan has directed the finance and economic affairs department to prepare a road map for ten years for economic development. In the next decade, the economic growth should be maintained at (08) percent.

Every area of Pakistan's industrial sector needs special attention and development. These are pillars of the National Economy, but the textile industry needs more attention. It is not possible to improve exports through strict monitoring or policies. Instead of traditional actions, some new policies may be initiated. It is openly said everywhere that due to a reduction in export orders, our factories have shortened their production process, which may affect industrial workers' employment. According to information in Faisalabad, the local Industrialists were bound to do so. Some factories also reduced working hours for workers. There is a need to give attention to solid grounds regarding Pakistani exporters. However, the government should not take this case leniently because, due to unfavorable conditions, Pakistani textile exporters must face tough competition with India, China, Bangladesh, and other countries in international markets. Textile exporters are also facing a shortage of liquid capital; therefore, there is a need to reduce banks' profit rates.

Last year, the Federal Government constituted a committee to solve the textile industry crisis. In light of the committee's recommendation, future strategies should be prepared so that the present ALARMING SITUATION may be controlled. Textile exporters have said on many occasions that they are slowly losing foreign Markets. If such a situation continues and is not prevented, the National Economy will suffer heavy losses.

Market policies should realize the present-day dangers and bring forward such policies, projects, and actions that human resources associated with this industry may be relieved of. This relief may be in the shape of any package whose benefit will go to the government.

The textile industry is an essential sector of our economy, and this industry may be kept healthy and strong if policymakers and organizations initiate positive action in the nation's best interests. Economic policies, national savings, and overall investments are important segments in which the private sector should make suggestions. The government should also give relief in taxes and duties may be reduced so that we can compete with other countries in international markets. If this does not happen, we will be a big loser, and our position will be far behind.

Daily News Paper 21st March 2007.

NECESSITY OF FURTHER AGRICULTURAL REFORMS IN SINDH

A few months ago, the government announced a much-publicized subsidy of Rs.200/- for fertilizer prices. However, this promising news was quickly overshadowed by the mill owners' decision to hike the fertilizer price by Rs. 500/-per bag. They began selling their existing stock at inflated prices, with a bag previously priced at Rs. 621/-now being sold for Rs.1321/-. In some areas, such as Badin, the increase was even steeper, with fertilizer being sold at a markup of Rs.600/- per bag. This means that a sack of fertilizer originally priced at Rs.825/- is now available at a staggering Rs.1425/-. The situation's urgency is apparent, and immediate action is needed to address this issue.

Despite the challenges, the agricultural economy of Sindh, already facing devastation and the abundance of agricultural commodities available, has shown remarkable resilience. The recent massive increase in the prices of Power, Gas, Seed, and Agricultural equipment has worried farmers. Therefore, it is necessary to start mega projects on an emergency basis to restore irrigation systems in Sindh. From the hilly areas (kohistani patti) of district Dadu up to the deserted areas of Thar, Sanghar, and Umerkot, there are various suitable places for water storage. Few people know that during the rainy season in District Dadu, many small rivers (rivulets) overflow, and the same situation occurs in the mountains of Karonjhar. Upto many miles in the rainy season, these rivulets bring destruction. If this bulk of water is stored, it could fulfill the entire water demand for the area, and drought in Kauch Thar could be easily avoided. Agricultural expert and office bearer of Aiwan-e-Zaraat Syed Qamar-ur-Zaman Shah has said in a recent interview that farmers face difficulties from banks. He declared the performance of banks as discouraging.

The agriculture sector of Sindh declares that the agriculture package by the Federal government and announcements and steps taken by the provincial Government are insufficient. Recently, during a seminar, it was observed that this year's sugarcane, rice, and wheat crops are produced less than the average volume of previous years, as per the version of the Sindh Abadgar Board. The Federal Government must construct water courses in the province to support agriculture. They have proposed on both sides of the River Indus left bank outfall drain for the exit of control of salinity water current projects, right bank over fall drain RBOD, and water from LOBD must be treated by scientific ways, and all expenses made in this process should be recovered from other provinces. They also suggest that bogus and sub-standard seeds have made a profoundly negative impact on agriculture. The urgency of these issues cannot be overstated, as they threaten the very livelihoods of our farmers and the stability of our agricultural sector.

Lower Sindh hare farmers recently identified a substandard sunflower seed, which has reduced crops and production. Farmers believe that the volume of agriculture loans allocated to the government budget is insufficient and needs to increase. They have said that the total number of cattle in Sindh is 30 million, which could be raised to 50 million. For this purpose, there is a need to give more incentives to the livestock sector. They have also stressed that the government should provide the same facilities to Abadgars as neighboring countries and introduce crop insurance. The crop insurance proposal was also presented in past years, but commissions and

committees ignored it and buried it in cold storage. The government has announced the exemption of agriculture loans up to 500 hundred thousand. And for the payment of agricultural loans and revenues up to ten hundred thousand, relaxations have been given. The need is not the deferment in payments of taxes but its exemption. When farmers do not get relief, the situation will not improve. Recently, in Khairpur, a virus in date crops has been detected, due to which 1.5 thousand acres of land covering 70 % of the crop has been damaged. Farmers of dates have suffered a loss of many million. A few years ago, cotton, chilies, mango, and onion farmers also suffered the same attacks. Agricultural research organizations established in the province and the agriculture university in Faisalabad should adopt methods to prevent crop diseases so that the hard money of farmers and their hard work may not be spoiled. The standard of agricultural pesticides, technical guidance of farmers, increase in per acre production, and identification of crops that need less water are also important issues that may prevent the crisis-facing agricultural economy from averting. It is a general impression that government machinery and certain circles in the private sector are against government policies and are creating problems for the government. In the fast-changing scenario, the government. While realizing issues and hurdles in the agriculture sector, we must control the prices of fertilizer, seed, agricultural equipment, and pesticides. Farmers should be relieved so the farm yield will be excellent and the national economy will prosper.

Daily News Paper 28th March 2007

ARAB LEAGUE CONFERENCE AND WORLD PEACE

Arab League Head of the States conference was held in Saudi Arabia, and once again, proposals were put forward to establish peace in the Middle East. President Pervaiz Musharraf of Pakistan was specially invited to attend this conference, and he addressed the meeting in depth. The President stressed the joint efforts of the Muslim World for the creation of a Palestinian state. An important aspect was that the European Union, Javier Solana, and the Indian vice foreign minister also attended the conference where Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon addressed this historic meeting.

After the Second World War, the way by which Allied countries divided among themselves the occupied areas and the thorn of Palestine was inserted in the heart of the Middle East. It is such a horrible event that could not be forgotten. The most painful aspect of this event is the fact that the highly ambitious plans of Israel are not hidden from anyone. The Arab-Israel war of 1967, the occupation of a vast area of Golan Heights, and the brutal treatment of Palestinians in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila are horrible events that no one can forget.

How could the Palestinian problem be solved? This dialogue has been discussed in various forums. This week, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal clearly said that if Israel, as per the peace agreement, accepts the pre-1967 borders, then Israel will also be accepted by Arab countries. He said that if such a solution is not accepted, all efforts for peace in the region will fail. Prince Saud-al-Faisal rejected the further proposal of diplomatic efforts. He said that Arab countries have done up to the best of their capabilities and one-way efforts for peace will be useless, and if Israel rejected the peace plan of Arab countries, then it would ultimately mean that it doesn't want peace in the region. Saudi King Shah Abdullah gave the same opinion during the Head of the States conference of the Arab League in another way. He said the Palestinian issue must not be kept pending indefinitely. We should work in an atmosphere of peace and security for the creation of an independent Palestinian state with Al-Quds as its capital. For this purpose, a schedule and international community collaboration are necessary. It should be noted that Saudi Arabia presented a formula at the Beirut conference of 2002, which called for "land in exchange for peace."

It must be noted that Saudi Arabia presented a formula for "land in exchange for peace" during the Beirut conference held in 2002. According to the central point of that formula, Israel has to vacate the occupied areas of Arab territories during the 1967 war, rehabilitate Palestinians in those areas, and be ready to give them the status of an independent state; the Arab world would consider recognition of Israel and normalization of relations.

After an extended tense atmosphere, this compromising formula could be the first drop of rain. Even after Five years, Israel has not shown any serious interest, but now, due to the situation in Iraq, the USA is facing strong opposition from members of Congress. On the other side, tension with Iran could lead to another war. Due to this background, if Israel foregoes its ego and shows its willingness to follow the Saudi peace formula, then the situation in the Middle East could be improved. This was a critical point of the 19 Heads of the States Conference of the Arab League, which ended last week in the Saudi capital, Riyadh. Before this conference, Iranian President

Mahmood Ahmedi Nazad visited Saudi Arabia, and besides King Abdullah, he met many leading Saudi personalities. As per reporting bilateral meetings, world situation and regional affairs were discussed, and it was announced that both leaders have shown their willingness to struggle jointly against enemies of Islam who are creating unrest in the Islamic world. In the past, over the issue of Iraq, the differences between Iran and Saudi Arabia were highlighted. However, due to this visit by the Iranian president, differences of opinion in the future have been rejected, and the responsible attitude of both countries has been noted. Therefore, it could be expected that over issues like Iraq, Lebanon, or Israel, along with the Arab League, O.I.C, and the newly-created group in Islamabad, the version of all will be the same. The Riyadh conference also indicates this unity, whose joint declaration aimed to keep the Middle East a nuclear-arms-free zone. Still, it was also declared that every country has the right to use atomic energy peacefully.

President Pervaiz Musharaf's address was the key address, and he expressed himself freely and made it clear that problems and issues of the Arab world create an overall impact on the Muslim world. Therefore, to create a Palestinian state, efforts should be made to ensure that the state's capital is AL-Quds. The President at this moment said that it is the historical responsibility of the USA and Europe to solve this decade's issue because the failure to search for a justified solution to the Palestinian issue has also caused loss. The aggressive actions of Israel have also increased tension and are hurdles in the movement toward justified settlement.

Gen. Pervez Musharraf appreciated the recent links between Iran and Saudi Arabia. He narrated the positive impacts in the gulf due to these dialogues. He thought practical diplomatic efforts might defer the present destructive situation so that a solution could be sought. He said that their challenges were our challenges, and to tackle them, their success was our success. World political analysts closely watched the address by the president and the speech of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. They concluded that due to the compromising attitude of Arabs in the Middle East, the possibility of peace was initiated. Now, Israel has to decide whether they want to end the decades-long tension or not. In the

The presence of Heavier Solana of the European Union and Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon will help these organizations to prepare future policies because representatives from Yemen, Sudan, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Kuwait, Algeria, United Arab Emirates, Morocco, Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania, and Somalia have expressed their opinion in-depth. President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan even told the Palestinian leadership to respect the agreement and that all Arab countries should have a unified opinion over common issues. The declaration of the heads of states conference of the Arab League could not press world powers to accept this compromising formula that Saudi Arabia presented. Still, it is pretty specific that if Israel does not take this compromising offer, then as per the statement of Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal, the issue will become more complicated, tension will increase, and that will be highly destructive for the future of this region. Will world leadership realize the dangers looming shortly?

Daily Newspaper 4th April 2007

GAWADAR PORT. MILESTONES OF COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The inauguration of Gawadar port is being declared as a new hope for commercial and economic development, and there is no doubt that this is a step towards growth and prosperity taken after many years. Gawadar is an area that was returned to Pakistan during the Prime Ministership of Feroz Khan Noon as per an agreement. Feroz Khan Noon writes in his autobiography, Chashm Deed, that the history of our period will be incomplete without mentioning Gawadar. Two thousand four hundred (2400) square mile area was returned to Pakistan, but there were no celebrations, and no due publicity was made. He writes that he promised the United Kingdom and President Iskandar Mirza that there would be no festival on this occasion.

On the southern coast of Pakistan, at a distance of 45 miles in the east, where the Iranian borders meet the Arabian Sea, Gawadar Port is located. In 1781, the prince of Muscat took refuge with the ruler of Kalat, an independent king of Kalat then. He offered the annual income of Gawadar, approximately Rs.84, to that Prince for his livelihood. After that, when that prince became King of Muscat, he did not return Gawadar to King of Kalat and continued his occupation over Gawadar. However, he had no need of income from Gawadar. In 1839, Britain asked for the return of Gawadar and interfered between Kalat and Muscat but avoided taking any decision in favor of anyone. In 1949, meetings and dialogues were held but ended without any decision, and the issue was left unresolved. Feroz Khan Noon writes that when 1956 he was appointed foreign minister of Pakistan, he called for the historical documents over Gawadar and, after an in-depth study of this issue, started efforts through the British government. It was a difficult task for the British government. On one side, Pakistan was a member of the Commonwealth, and on the other side was the sultan of Muscat, who held centuries-old relations with Britain, and the interests of both countries were conflicting. The graph of his expectations was coming upwards and downwards, although meetings and conversations were continuously held In 1957. He took on the responsibilities of Prime Minister of Pakistan. In the history of this issue, he raised the legal point that the status of Gawadar is like an estate and is a part of the state, which was given to a person to collect due taxes for his livelihood. Such support could not become the basis of power transfer at any cost. In Pakistan, we had canceled all such estates granted by Britain due to personal services rendered or other political reasons.

Gawadar was also an estate. Therefore, its status could be canceled, and occupation was possible over this area. He did not report this justification to any of his British friends as a threat, although it was a legal point that could have been helpful to us during legal proceedings. The British government was involved in a highly complex situation. If Pakistani forces captured this area by force, then could the British attack such a country that is a member of the Commonwealth and Queen Elizabeth be herself its constitutional head? Pakistan was in a highly comfortable position due to its membership in the Commonwealth. Otherwise, our position against Muscat and its adjoining areas would not be any better than that of the Imam of Oman, and our claims would be assumed to be a threat from a foreign power. Mr. Macmillan, Mr. Silvon Lyod, and the minister for commonwealth affairs, Lord Hon, took a justified attitude for which I admit to deep-hearted feelings for them. They never pressured any party, so the transfer of Gawadar to Pakistan was completed in a highly peaceful manner. Naturally, compensation was made, but when the question of national security and status arises, the monetary value is unimportant. In 1958, during the summer season, he was in London. When our High Commissioner, Mr.

Ikramullah, presented me with the signed documents of the transfer of Gawadar, I was so happy and proud you could not imagine my feelings and sentiments. Gawadar was in the hands of a foreign country. It was my feeling that I was living in a house whose backside was in the custody of an unknown person and that an unknown person at any time could sell the home to an anti-Pakistan power. When I went to Delhi to discuss the settlement of border conflicts, Indian Prime Minister Mr. Nehru asked me, "You took Gawadar"? I replied, "Yes". Mr. Nehru said that 300 Indians live in Gawadar. I said that we don't want to create any problems for the rehabilitation of immigrants there. If these Indians wish, then I am ready to give them Pakistani citizenship and passports. After hearing this, he was pleased, and his worries over the Hindu population of Gawadar ended. I feel thrilled that these people have continued their residence, and I do not doubt they will be happy and prosperous as usual.

8th September 1958 was the date when Gawadar became a part of Pakistan. In the same year, a fertilizer plant started functioning in the Dawood Khel area. Wireless service was also started between Karachi and Kabul. President Iskandar Mirza inaugurated a dry port in Karachi. In East Pakistan, karnafali paper mills began production, and other industrial and commercial projects were completed. Gawadar was acquired by Pakistan in 1958 for 10 million dollars. At that time, the distance between Karachi and Gawadar was about 24 to 36 hours; now, just 7 to 8 hours on modern coastal highways. The fare from Karachi to Gawadar is hardly 600 rupees, whereas air travel has become easy and affordable.

20th March 2007 will be remembered in Pakistani history as an essential and historical day when President General Pervaiz Musharraf and Chinese Minister for Communication Lee Shung Len inaugurated Gawadar port 49 years ago. The dream of prosperity, seen by Pakistani leadership, was now becoming a reality. With a cost of 30 million dollars, this project will serve as a commercial corridor between Asian countries and the Gulf States. The total cost of development projects underway in Balochistan is 130 billion rupees.

The chief minister of Baluchistan, Jam Yousuf, has rightly said that the people of this area will benefit from these development schemes. In the future, due to development and prosperity, Gawadar will be ahead of Hong Kong because this port is naturally located on the route of heavy and oversized cargo ships that regularly sail between Asia, Africa, and the European continents. For this reason, Gawadar Port will become a basis for the economic, commercial, and industrial revolution for Balochistan and the whole country.

Capital will be diverted towards Pakistan when commercial activities are at a peak. As a result, poverty will be eliminated, and employment opportunities will be created. The Country and the people will become prosperous. Some circles say that Gawadar will be the "GATEWAY OF ASIA," which is correct. A road is under construction from Gawadar to Afghanistan via Chaman, whereas from Gawadar to Rato Dero via Qaboo Saeed Khan, a development project is underway and is near completion. In this project, three long berths 200 meters in length have been completed, and the channel will be made deeper. Gawadar port will be linked to the coastal highway, and for this purpose, an expressway project of six lanes is under construction. Gawadar port, as per an agreement, has been handed over to a Singapore company.

This is in the initial stage, but positive results will soon come before us. The 650-kilometer-long coastal highway and 1050-kilometer-long Gawadar Chaman highway will provide an approach to central Asian states, and the trading importance of this port will be increased. With the Chinese cooperation in

Gawadar, the largest oil refinery in Asia is under construction, and in the future, this less-known village will be converted into a commercial capital.

According to a research report about Gawadar, it is mentioned that Gawadar due to its geographical location was already substantial, but nature has gifted a deep sea; due to the deep water at Gawadar, not only will large-sized ships be easily anchored, but fuel charges and other charges will be decreased. This aspect of Gawadar port makes it prominent compared to other international ports because it is located at the edge of the Persian Gulf and has a coastal area of at least 600 kilometers long. China, Russia, and other countries of Central Asia whose seaports cease to function throughout the year due to bad weather will avail themselves of the services of Gawadar port, and this hot water seaport will be an unexpected blessing for those countries.

As far as the approach through the Chaman Highway is concerned, it will also be straightforward, and during the extreme winter season, movement will not be complex. As Gawadar is close to Iran, therefore Iranian oil could be easily transported to other countries of the world, and according to an estimate, there will be an expected business of 60 billion dollars, out of which the government will get at least one billion dollars in terms of taxes and duties.

At the time of the inauguration of Gawadar port, a capacity of 30 thousand DWT containers was available. A further depth of 142 meters increased the port's depth, whereas the sea entrance's width was 207 kilometers. Due to these factors, big DWT-sized cargo ships could be easily anchored, and on an annual basis, 50 to 60 million tons of cargo would be handled at this port, which is more than any other seaport in the region. In shipping journals and research papers, it has been accepted that Bandar Abbas, Dubai, and other ports of Kuwait and Iraq, as well as Gawadar, could be utilized as an alternative port.

Here in Gawadar, a large capacity for oil storage, transportation, tourism, export of minerals, and industrial development exists, and a large area of open land is available, so starting an industrial project will not be difficult. Now, there is a need for local people to concentrate on the importance of this port and look forward to the benefits to be achieved in the future.

With time, this area will become a center of regional and international trade, the benefits of which will undoubtedly be awarded to local people who are less privileged today. In the coming decades, this area will become prosperous. At that time, the present government and its projects will be remembered because the speed of industrial and economic developments in the Gawadar port area will be very high.

Daily News Paper 11th and 12th April 2007

SAARC CONFERENCE – HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS

The 14th Heads of States Conference of SAARC was organized in the first week of the current month in New Delhi. This conference was unique because Afghanistan was given full membership in this organization, which was earlier decided at the Dacca conference in 2005. In the New Delhi Conference, Iran was appointed observer, although Iran has submitted its application for full membership in SAARC. The observer status has already been awarded to the USA, China, Japan, South Korea, and the European Union.

South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) was established in 1985, and its initial targets were cooperation between member countries in economic, scientific, educational, medical, technical, and population resources. It is a general impression that whatever expectations were made at its establishment were not ultimately achieved. Two important member countries of SAARC, India, and Pakistan, have long-standing issues and conflicts that have caused this organization to fail to play its due role. India does not keep a healthy relationship not only with Pakistan but also with Sri Lanka. There is also tension between India and Bangladesh, as noted earlier. Now, after the granting of membership to Afghanistan, bilateral relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan will naturally be affected, and international media has highlighted this fact while commenting on the Delhi conference of SAARC.

Pakistan has already tried its best so that international crises and conflicts must end. That's why Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has presented a five-point formula for peace and cooperation in South Asia, as merely a joint wish for collaboration is not enough. For this purpose, trade, economy, transportation, and communication networks must be promoted, and all hurdles must be eliminated.

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has already said that all conflicts, including the Kashmir issue, must be resolved. SAARC should be a meaningful organization in its spirit and practice because it has not previously achieved its expected targets. Pakistan has done its best to make this organization meaningful, and these efforts show that poverty must be ended in this region. To promote peace, other countries should always play a positive role. This is very important because today, questions arise over the past performance of SAARC, and it is only due to those differences and conflicts between member countries that have not been resolved to date. Due to some member countries' unrealistic and aggressive behavior, the situation worsened. At this stage, a question may be asked: what steps should be taken to improve SAARC and achieve positive results?

As per the schedule, the Heads of State meetings must be held annually. In the SAARC forum, political differences and problems could not be discussed, so the Kashmir issue was never discussed on this platform. However, due to this sensitive issue, India and Pakistan were involved in three wars. India has various political differences from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal. Therefore, the SAARC manifesto must be amended so that differences between member countries may be resolved through the SAARC platform. It is a hard fact that in the presence of

disagreements whatsoever, such organizations' effectiveness and importance become non-productive.

If you look at the organizational structure of SAARC, you will see that it has failed to achieve its aims. Its members show unity only up to the level of a joint declaration, but the people demand such types of performance and roles from SAARC, which is still awaited. There is another impression that until member countries end their differences and bind themselves in unity, all these meetings and conferences will be merely lip service.

Suppose SAARC member countries wish to transform this organization into a powerful political platform like the European Union. In that case, India, the most prominent member country, must resolve all differences with Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. In the same way, Afghanistan must stop making false allegations and sit at the dialogue table like a good neighbor. SAARC member countries ensure that all offers of donations should be seen and checked with a deep insight because those countries or organizations that will provide donations will prioritize their policies, decisions, and benefits. This organization and its overall choices will become a joke in such a situation.

Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, and Afghanistan, with a combined population of 1.5 billion, are members of SAARC, and this organization has so far arranged 14 Heads of State conferences. In the New Delhi conference, the establishment of SAARC University, poverty alleviation, implementation of free trade policy, creation of SAARC development fund, termination of conflicts between member countries, and creation of a mediation council was declared targets. The establishment of SAARC university and food bank were the main initiatives taken during the Delhi conference. This decision is also crucial because South Asia has a shallow position in education and the economy. There is an urgent need for such a decision to restore and develop these sectors.

The unanimous agreement for establishing the Free South Asia Commission over poverty alleviation and next year (2008) should be celebrated as the "SAARC YEAR OF GOOD GOVERNANCE." These decisions will be beneficial in promoting cooperation among member countries of this organization.

The main achievements of the Delhi Conference of SAARC were the two decisions: the establishment of a mediation council and the establishment of the SAARC development fund. It will sound good enough that SAARC should achieve its targets before its 15th conference. For this purpose, SAARC countries should closely watch over changes in world affairs. If decisions are taken without considering the world political scenario, then the results will not be positive like the previous one. Will SAARC member countries act upon the 5-points program of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz so that SAARC can start Its new journey?

Daily News Paper 18th April, 2007

PAK – CHINA FRIENDSHIP AND REGIONAL PROSPERITY

This is not a maxim but a reality that China and Pakistan possess lasting and binding bonds of friendship as both countries have to face conflicts from a common neighboring country, India. They have similar interests, maintained today and for centuries through the Silk Road. Recently, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz visited his brother country, China, and there he signed twenty-seven mutual agreements on trade, social reforms, education, health, engineering, and other allied sectors. These agreements were appreciated at all levels because they would make bilateral relations more robust and beneficial. For a long time, China has been an allied country of Pakistan.

Recently, China completed the construction of the Gawadar Port project while its cooperation in the exploration of mineral resources, construction of highways, and other fields already exists in Pakistan. Changes in governments, reshuffling of rulers, and ups and downs in world affairs did not affect this solid and concrete relationship between China and Pakistan because the Pak-China relationship belongs to the people, not the countries. While visiting Pakistan a few months ago, the Chinese President said that the friendship between Pakistan and China is more profound than in oceans and taller than in mountains. This acknowledgment possesses a historical background of the end of the China–Russia relationship. Then, China felt isolated. Its relations with Japan were unhealthy, and Taiwan was not friendly with China. At that moment of diplomatic isolation, Pakistan openly supported its neighboring brother country, as India was also an allied country of Russia. Although Pakistan was maintaining close relations with the USA, which was not a friend of China during the India-China war of 1962, Pakistan played the traditional role of friendship with China and did not support India.

Pak-China relations have been remarkable since the 1965 war between India and Pakistan. Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz took a new turn during his recent visit to China when 13 official and 14 private sector cooperation agreements were signed. The present is a period of industrial development, and in this period, countries are not occupied by force, but the latest technology captures industrial and commercial markets. When a country is caught in trouble by any superpower, it becomes nearly impossible to exit. Pakistan and China have always avoided such tendencies of capture and dominance. Both countries fully understand it is an undefeatable defense of each country, and these bilateral agreements open new ways for development and cooperation in other fields. After holding bilateral meetings, ministers from China and Pakistan signed many agreements, including a five-year economic cooperation agreement. Others were the avoidance of double taxes, the establishment of industrial zones, the construction of Gawadar Airport, the improvement in aerospace technology, and the creation of cable systems in both countries. The Chinese leadership also clarified that their country is ready to invest in constructing water reservoirs, bridges, mass transit, and the energy sector. The free trade agreement signed by both countries is expected to be implemented at the end of the current year, and with the formation of a joint investment committee, mutual trade will be promoted.

All these projects will open doors of prosperity and development in Pakistan and the entire region, particularly Gawadar airport, which China will construct to international standards. In recent years, China built the Gawadar seaport before the deadline, and workers have exhibited

their excellence in the project. In the commercial and industrial sectors, a reaction has been seen. Relations between the two countries have now developed in different sectors at the public level, like trade, health education, and other areas, as well as the highly encouraging government level. In this sense, when relations between countries are developed at the public level, they become more stable and lasting.

Chinese banks have indicated they are opening branches in Pakistan and want to invest in the energy sector. At a time when even the Pakistani government itself is highly interested in getting foreign investment, China's offer of investment is highly praiseworthy. Now, there is a need to make these agreements definite and workable because, in the past years, many contracts and memorandums of understanding have been signed between Pakistan and different countries. Still, later on, there was nothing on the board. The offer made by Federal Minister for Trade and Industries Mr. Jahangir Tareen to Chinese investors to take advantage of available opportunities is a very positive step in itself. Still, the real point is the version of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, who has declared that Pakistan will follow up on these agreements. It is a reality that signatures over a memorandum of understanding without concrete and solid movements will lose the overall importance of those development projects.

Now, it is highly needed that investment in Pakistan should start, mills and factories should be established, and development projects should take a smooth take-off so that millions of people will get jobs. The export of finished products will earn foreign exchange, and the economy will become more stable by national progress. But at this point, I will again repeat my old proposal, which was already presented in these columns, that when an agreement is made with a country, it should be a mandatory point that the concerned country will also transfer the related technology to Pakistan so that in future positive results may be achieved. However, the Pak-China Friendship is lasting and binding, and recent agreements are highly worthy steps. We all must take advantage of these agreements.

Daily News Paper 25th April 2007.

FLUCTUATIONS OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is industrial development in Sindh stagnant? This question has been raised in a recent analysis report, which quoted that the establishment of new industries has stopped due to the non-interest and non-cooperation of government institutions. The rising unemployment rate in the country is also due to the worst performance of government institutions. They deliberately act slowly in the implementation of declared policies by the government. They raise baseless objections and use a decade-long system of red tape, which causes hurdles in investment. Otherwise, in the Sindh province, given priority to agriculture, dozens of development projects could be initiated, such as fish farming, cattle farming, etc. The ultimate result will be the province's prosperity and economic stability, but due to the absence of infrastructure and interior Sindh, bureaucracy always behaved in non-co-operative ways. We can say that they are deliberately doing this.

Industrial and business circles accept that sometimes Federal and Provincial governments introduce business-friendly policies. However, due to the non-implementation declared policy of Sindh Province, the bureaucracy and Politicians want something other than industrial development. For example, out of hundreds of registered mills and factories, 150 have been closed for version durations. In Sukkur, 304 plots were allotted for factories, but only 160 industrial units were established, and 60 units were closed for different reasons. This report, published by a local newspaper, may be exaggerated in some respects, but it is not true that the third biggest city of Sindh still needs to achieve targets in the industrial sector. Similarly, in Khairpur, at least 22 factories of textile, leather, and other items were established. Today, only ten industrial units work in Nawab Shah 35, Noshero Feroz 20, and Larkana.

Shikarpur and Jacobabad have 8 and 5 factories working, respectively, but further capacity exists there. Rice mills in rice-producing areas, ginning factories in cotton-producing areas, and factories for packing and storing dates could be established. Authorities approved the establishment of a dry port in Sukkur a long time ago, but this project has yet to materialize. Another proposal was sent to the provincial government during the 90s to establish an export processing zone in Sukkur. Due to changes in governments, it also failed to succeed. If the proposal was completed, traders might get all the facilities in their nearest city instead of going to Karachi.

There is another problem of sugar mills in the cane-producing areas. Currently, there are only a few dozen sugar mills in the province. Fixation of the official rate of sugar cane, the timely start of crushing season, and problems with payments of premiums are the significant issues that could be solved either by the government itself or a committee of mill owners and badgers so that not only improvement will occur in this sector, but the tendency to harvest crops other than sugar will be reduced. Sugar mills are established in Sukkur, Larkana, Khairpur, Nawabshah, Badin, Sanghar, Tandoo Mohammad Khan, Thatta, and other adjoining districts. At the same time, farming sugarcane is a usual practice in many different districts.

Due to the heavy increase in imports, the trade balance deficit is also increasing. If improvements in leather, textile, and other sectors are made, a new export target may be achieved, decreasing the trade deficit. Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and many other countries provide the industrial industry with power, gas, water, and tax facilities. We must also be given the same relief to compete with other countries by producing standard and cheap products. Everyone knows that in China, industries have been given different kinds of relief regarding duties and taxes. Now, India is also moving in the same direction. Given that these industrial areas of Pakistan are also waiting for government aid, we will become an importing country; if we look at trade imports of the last two decades, then it is possible to verify this claim.

Along with the hurdles at the domestic level, Pakistani trade circles are facing tough competition and problems at the international level. Recently, sanctions have been announced on seafood products in Pakistan. Members of the European Union have claimed that at Karachi Fish Harbor, standard and hygienic conditions are not satisfactory. According to an estimate, the export of Pakistan's seafood products is around 200 million dollars, with 52 million dollars worth of flatfish, cattle fish, and prawns to European Union member countries. It can be said that the European Union made this harsh decision hurriedly. Still, it is a reality that before the visit of the European Union delegation to Pakistan, the situation could have been controlled effectively. According to the information, this visit was annual and scheduled. Everybody knows the gravity of the situation at the national and international levels, but government officials must be made aware.

Recently, in interior Sindh, some district Nazims have drawn the attention of the Provincial Departments of Industries, Trade, and Labour in their meetings. Tandoadam is located between Hyderabad and Mirpurkhas, and here, many industrial units of Textile mills and the supply of milk and mutton could be established. If the District Badin industrial zone is established, an oil refinery could be established due to the vast quantity of sunflowers, edible oil factories, and mineral oil extraction. In Hyderabad, the cottage industry of bangles is working on a large scale, and in this area, roses and other flowers are harvested. Recently, industrialists from Japan and France visited. While addressing the Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, they said that the flowers and perfumes prepared from these flowers may be exported to countries with significant demand and consumption.

Nooriabad industrial area lacks water facilities, and now the government has assured the water supply from Lake Keenjhar to Nooriabad. It is expected that this problem will be solved. This industrial zone was started in 1969. But even after 38 years, its issues and problems still exist. In all districts of Sindh, SITE areas must be established with water, power, and gas availability to solve the unemployment problem. The other benefit will be revenue collection to the government while the trade balance will be improved, and we will move towards profit instead of loss. Furthermore, the government should consider revising the present income tax, wealth tax, excise tax, custom duty, old age benefits, sewerage tax, civil defense tax, property tax, social tax, and other taxes.

High prices of Power, Gas, and Petroleum products have also significantly burdened industrialists. The government's priorities should include providing facilities to industrialists. Today, overseas Pakistanis are willing to invest in their mother country. Due to unfavorable situations and the absence of guidance, they are setting up industries in Bangladesh and the Arab Emirates. If the overall situation is seen from a broader perspective, then by restoration of sick industries, One-window operation for new industries, and elimination of red tape in the ministries of trade, labor, and industries, many improvements may be carried out, which will give positive results. Due to these proposals, not only will our country become prosperous but also prosperous, and its residents will get the basic requirements of life. But for this purpose, we must demolish the apathy that has continued for the last decade. We have been blessed by Allah, the Most Respected and Merciful, with unlimited resources. The only condition is to use them positively.

Daily News Paper Dated: 2nd May 2007

LOAD SHEDDING AND ECONOMIC LOSSES

If the current power crisis continues, then all projects of development will prove a mirage. Many years ago, this remark was made by a prominent business and industrial sector figure. In those days, the situation was the same as it exists today. Many changes have occurred during this period, but the promise of the power supply was not fulfilled by the government, not even the present government. However, the past governments and their ministers departed after attractive announcements, steps, and arrangements, and the problem is still at the same stage.

What is the power problem, and why does it arise every year? This topic does not need any detailed study. If there is no balance in supply and demand, then a shortage or absence of Power arises in every period, and the same is the situation with power. The question is instead of temporary policies. Ad hoc steps and arrangements made on an emergency basis, why a permanent solution has not been searched for this issue. The problem is not only the power shortage in Karachi, Lahore, Hyderabad, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Mirpurkhas, Tando-adam and Peshawar. Due to this crisis, the logical losses cover sectors like industries, Business, Exports, education, health, etc.

A friend of mine, who is associated with the garment industry, told me that due to the power crisis, many export orders had been canceled because of long hours of load shedding and unannounced breakdown periods; he could not carry on export orders in time. Furthermore, payments to skilled and unskilled persons, staff salaries, power, phone, gas, and other expenses continue to be unusual. On the other side, penalties must be paid due to payment delays. These losses, on one side, create a negative impact on national reputation and dignity. They don't accept the excuse of closing power, load shedding, or power crisis because their countries have no such concept.

According to a calculated estimate, cottage industries, small industries, and other factory owners suffer a loss of Rs.500 million per day due to undeclared load shedding. Due to the scorching weather, people prefer to go out to make their purchases in the evening instead of during the day. Now the government has put us on a tented book by ordering the closure of shopping centers at 8.00 P.M. In the past years, such orders have been issued at least three times. We also had two holidays and kept standard time an hour behind to follow the Western countries. The real issue is not making experiments or suggestions but to resolve the problems.

President General Pervez Musharraf asked the local administration during his recent visit to Karachi to investigate why KESC has not fulfilled its commitments. The government's load management plan and proposal of two days' holidays have been rejected. However, the shutdown of business and commercial centers after 8.00 P.M, the closure of electrical and industrial turbines, and the closure of neon signs after 8.00 will be implemented. Consumers are also requested to cooperate, and it is said that if a 100-watt bulb is switched off, then 1700 megawatts of power could be saved. Appeals and suggestions are good, but the power department officials do not think it will work. Only those who can afford these luxuries do not pay bills. This list

includes employees of KESC and WAPDA, government employees, high officials, and power thieves who steal power without fear of prosecution.

If the government wishes to search for a solution to this crisis, there must be no shutdown in large cities; instead, alternatives must be adopted. During the Nawaz Shareef and Benazir Bhutto regimes, Power plants were established through IPPs to purchase power. Still, consumers and the country were later financially burdened, and the power crisis was not solved completely. In this connection, some circles have suggested that till dams are constructed with consensus, small Power-producing units may be built over extensive canals in Sindh and Punjab provinces. So, power could be made for agricultural and domestic use. In this way, the burden may be reduced over the grid power system.

Throughout the world, power has been produced by air, coal, solar, and nuclear resources, but our country's dependence on water and thermal systems is higher. For this purpose, coal deposits of Baluchistan may be utilized, schemes may be prepared through which fast winds in the coastal belt stretching from Thatta to Gawadar, and nuclear energy in Sindh and Balochistan may be used to get power. These are all long term steps, and for this purpose, many companies have submitted their proposals to the government, and even locations were identified. Through this project, very cheap power may be produced, but some unknown elements became hurdles in this project. Today, the world is facing a power crisis, so the machinery required for this project has become expensive, and now the power tariff will also be costly. To solve this problem immediately, power may be purchased from our neighbors, and power theft must be stopped.

Power theft by residents of Karachi is wrong, although the truth is that power meant for Karachi is being stolen. In Karachi, at police lines or police stations, important government offices, or residents of influential persons, where KUNDAS are fixed, and if there are no restrictions, air conditioners, refrigerators, heaters, and other electrical items are used 24 hours. In the first step, HESCO and WAPDA officials must control power theft and line losses, and accessible power supply to their employees must be abolished. Our power supply system is outdated, so 30% of the power has gone to waste, which is very high. The present power crisis may be reduced if this is organized using modern techniques. Along with this, outstanding bills due to government departments and other defaulters must be recovered, and with this money, new projects may be initiated.

According to a report, in tribal areas, 62 billion rupees are due to defaulters. It is extraordinary that WAPDA officials disconnect power from defaulters of only a few thousand and overlook this considerable amount. It is pretty questionable and looks dubious. On the one hand, there is a power crisis in our country. On the other side, this year, 15000 villages will be provided power when there is not enough power for present consumers in the country, so why the risk of delivering power to millions is on board? The short-sighted officials are acting on a policy to extend the power crisis; otherwise, the load management plan that was announced recently already exists, and our people are already facing undeclared load shedding and lengthy breakdowns throughout the year. Due to fluctuations in power supply, electrical items are

damaged, and now it is routine, and complaints from consumers do not get attention from concerned authorities.

During power breakdowns, phone numbers of complaint centers and helplines are kept continuously engaged. Although Pakistan is the only country in the world where the general public has to pay utility bills for Water, Power, Gas, and Telephone in the hottest weather by standing in a queue, People of no other country in the world face such a disgrace to pay utility bills by standing in front of a small window of banks for hours. This only happens in Pakistan. The general public and regular taxpayers belonging to the business community are included in these consumers.

Due to ill-prepared policies, this problem, instead of any solution, has worsened, and the dream of self-sufficiency in the power sector is still far from becoming a reality. No doubt the decade-old problem will take time to solve, but it is only possible when the journey starts, and the first step has been taken; our destination will be near us. At present, people from Karachi to Lahore, along with industries, are protesting. To save the power, its theft must be stopped, and its supply free of cost should be immediately abolished. This is a severe issue. If export orders are not completed in time, then not only will the trade agreements be disturbed, but the government will also face a significant loss in revenue. Throughout world development, the industrial sector has always been given top priority. We should also work in the same way. Otherwise, if the productive process is disturbed as usual, then in overseas markets, the products of different countries will be sold instead of Pakistani products.

The government claims that 14500 megawatts of Power are currently being produced in Pakistan, while the national demand is 15476 megawatts. The shortfall of 976 megawatts is the main reason for the country's power crisis.

After looking at this national issue in detail, there is no hesitation in saying or writing that problems and crises have been created due to faulty planning. Still, we have time to estimate the expected demand for power for the next ten years and utilize other power production resources. If planning has not been done on a long-term basis, then all the development projects will be turned only into dreams.

Daily News Paper 9th May 2007

EDUCATION POLICY- NECESSITY FOR REFORMS

In all creations of the universe, human beings have been awarded the status of most noble creation, and this is due to the extraordinary wisdom that is delivered to them by the Almighty God. Wisdom has created search, and search has made knowledge and scientific developments. Nobody can refuse to accept that knowledge is the only factor in human society, which is why civilized society has been structured. The universe's secrets are revealed to the knowledge-friendly nations. They have learned how to use the resources best, and due to this factor, their standard of life has increased, and their military power has also improved. Those nations that, instead of promoting their wisdom, prefer to live a highly luxurious life are fragile today and face disgrace and humiliation from powerful countries as a routine practice. The famous verse of philosopher-poet Allama Mohammad Iqbal said, *"taqdir kay qazi ka yeh fatwa hai azal say, har jurm zaifi ki saza mirg mofajat."* The lack of wisdom makes a human being weak and weaker daily.

In our country, everyone knows about the literacy ratio and standard of education. The apathy in the education sector has made the education system so backward that our generation, which is studying in government schools, cannot accommodate themselves in the technical world of the modern age. According to a newspaper report, 201,092 schools are working in the country, of which 44,723 are working under government supervision. Presently, 55 thousand schools are without boundary walls throughout the country, and 70 thousand schools are without clean water for human consumption. Fifty-seven thousand schools are without washrooms, and there is no building for 9,700 schools. The qualification of teachers and their availability is another question. At the same time, the functioning of schools at such a significant level is highly painful.

If only for the education sector, previous governments had worked seriously, then the present sorrowful situation would never have been created. In previous years, the most critical education sector ran routinely and temporarily. The government's deliberate negligence has weakened educational institutions, making no difference between getting an education and not getting one. Although the government has taken many steps to improve the standard of the education sector and more funds have been allocated for the education sector compared to previous years, at the practical level, the entire situation is not encouraging.

Our government has given much attention to higher education, and a highly qualified person, Dr. Ata Your Rahman, has been selected to head this commission. He has done much work in information technology and other higher education sectors, and their positive results have been noted. Especially government schools and many private schools are not working to benefit due to vested interest. For what purpose has this higher education commission been created? Most of the persons belonging to the privileged class are getting benefits from the commission. Therefore, it is necessary that, like higher education, there be more concentration on the primary education system so that the ordinary person may also benefit from higher education. The government always tries to do its best, but there is a need to achieve the results of such efforts, and for this purpose, there should be a stoppage of favoritism and bureaucracy in the concerned departments. In this connection, checks and balances must be implemented at a lower level.

Like the higher education commission, there should be a lower education commission whose head must be qualified and experienced. Due to the centuries-old feudal system in Sindh and the arrogance of bureaucracy, even after 60 years, most of the population is either illiterate or semi-literate. In contrast, Sri Lanka, a tiny country, has achieved 100% literacy. What could be worse than a citizen possessing resources to study at the universities of Europe and the USA and another person being helpless? He cannot afford to get an education in his own country. Getting an education is a basic necessity for every person due to the high cost of living converted into a luxury and available only to the upper class of society. Persons belonging to the middle and lower classes succeed in getting an education then. They cannot get a job without a proper education standard; even if they get a job, it carries a meager salary. The overall condition of our youth is the main reason that the importance of education is decreasing daily in our society.

Due to a dirty power game in our country, the education sector has been completely ruined. The slogan of "PAKISTAN FIRST" gives us indications to look over our foundation pillars. Along with Pakistan, we should include the motto "EDUCATION FIRST" as we don't wait for government aid to provide bread and butter. We must not wait for anyone to create an education system in the country because dependence on them is not logical for those who have done nothing in the last 60 years. Having any expectations from them means wasting precious time, and now we don't have any more time. Our foundations have been weakened too much, and if we want to save ourselves from a social demise, we must promote our wisdom and gain knowledge, and we should promote this slogan, "EDUCATION FIRST." This is a big job with urgent importance, and due to the present situation of resources, only government resources will not be enough.

Wealthy people, philanthropists, and non-government organizations must come forward and provide services to those who cannot afford expensive education. Implementing a uniform education system is critical so that contradictions, the absence of equality, and the ups and downs in our society may be eliminated, and a journey of prosperity and happiness may be started.

Daily News Paper Dated 23rd May 2007

BUDGET – GAME OF STATISTICS

Before the federal budget announcement, this question was asked at every forum: what relief is expected from the government, which they provide to the general public and industrialists? In the background of expectations and uncertainties, everybody agrees that economic development should be improved and inflation reduced. Suppose suitable steps are not taken to facilitate the general public. In that case, the government has to face tough opposition from all segments of our society, which could create enormous problems for it in the present circumstances.

No doubt, budget is a game of statistics, and the ordinary person cannot understand it quickly, but this reality cannot be denied that for the whole year, every person has to suffer the impacts of the budget. Every government used to claim that the budget would provide relief to the general public, but it always happens in reverse. This year's budget announcement is very near, and many suggestions have been put forward for the betterment of the ordinary person. However, there is a point on which every person agrees: the availability of employment, which is tied up with the law-and-order situation. Industries will only run when the unrest stops. Therefore, the government must prioritize restoring peace and solving law and order problems.

The Federal Budget will be presented at the beginning of June. At this moment, officials of the Ministry of Finance and other related ministries are busy carrying out this national duty day and night. At this point, it is necessary to remind the government to stop tax evasion and adopt a justified approach to the taxation system instead of imposing new taxes and increasing the rate of old taxes. The influential persons who enjoy relaxation and taxation privileges must be controlled. The privileged class has to pay taxes.

Today, the general sales tax is 15 % on purchasing every small and large item. The government should gradually reduce this rate and fix it at a reasonable rate because this unjustified and imbalanced tax system has increased Inflation. Every person affected only one or half percent of people get relief in our current budgetary system. The per liter price of petrol must be reduced by at least Rs.10/- per liter. Due to these steps, the government will undoubtedly get less revenue, but controlling tax evasion could achieve the revenue target.

Conversely, inflation will decrease its impact with the reduction in petrol prices and general sales tax (GST) rates. This will be shown in lower fares and reduced prices of daily consumable items. Salaried people, low-income groups, and persons earning daily wages are not benefiting from the vast deposits of foreign reserves. When prices are reduced, they will realize that the country is heading towards development.

Another proposal is that all persons not under the tax net should be brought into the tax net. According to analysts, landlords and people whose significant income do not pay their taxes by bungling income tax and FBR department persons. Pakistan is an agricultural country; by developing this sector, our country will be self-sufficient in crops. All over the world, by adopting the latest agricultural reforms, per acre production has been increased many times. Therefore, the government must take serious steps to develop the agriculture and industrial sectors. The

latest technology must be acquired and introduced to farmers, and in this respect, close cooperation should be established.

Self-sufficiency in crops will reduce the bulk of imports, and not only will the exports increase, but the uncertainty over the annual shortage of flour and sugar will end. Inflation also increases many times. Recently, due to the rising price of flour, the government has imposed a ban on the export of flour, which was, although a late decision after all, proved to be a good decision. The government must also closely watch those items whose unnecessary export creates shortages in the country. Import policies must be in favor of the ordinary person.

The health department is another example in which, due to the presence of black sheep, the entire check and balance system has been spoiled, and the prices of medicines in Pakistan are many times more than those in our neighboring countries. If a tablet is being sold in India at Rs.18/- the price of the same tablet in Pakistan is Rs48/- such a big difference is quite questionable. Therefore, reforms are also significant. Prices of medicines must be controlled so that they can be within the reach of an ordinary person and he can recover after illness. If not, then the generic medicine system can be adopted again.

The government should establish industrial zones in all districts and provide Water, Gas, Power, and other infrastructure facilities. They should be declared a tax-free zone for at least ten years. In this way, when industries were established, the production of iron, cement, electrical, and other allied items would increase. Secondly, the Unemployment rate in the local population will decrease, and thirdly, after the completion of these industries, the demand for skilled and qualified persons will increase. With the beginning of this industrial process, training professional and unskilled persons in the technical education centers must be given full attention.

For the next year, the government must declare the target of exports as double in comparison to imports so that the trade balance may be improved. There is another aspect of the country that needs urgent attention, and that is poverty, which is increasing day by day. Government officials claim that the poverty rate has been reduced from 35 % to 25 %; however, according to the latest report issued by the Asian Development Bank, the unemployment rate has increased in Pakistan, which is quite a severe matter. This means poverty increased in Pakistan.

Therefore, urgent concrete steps must be taken at the grassroots level to control the country's high poverty. Along with this, there is a need to consider wages because the minimum wage fixed by the government at Rs.4000/- is so minimal that, at present, only with a miracle can anyone survive. The rising rates of daily consumable items have increased the rates of bribes, and in our society, the roots of corruption have become more assertive in all segments of life in our country. It must be checked and must be treated as treason. The upcoming new budget may prove an example for the general public: Industrialists, traders, and government employees when all those steps must be taken due to results of which all segments of society may get relief. It is not difficult to make the budget attractive by putting statistics in it, but it can only be beautiful when the general public and all life segments respond positively. If in this budget only prices of commodities

and petrol are reduced, then salaries and wages could be increased, and along with the general public, government employees will not demand any other relief and relaxation. Conversely, real estate, lawyers, doctors, private schools, and small traders should be convinced to pay their taxes regularly. If they do not pay taxes, then making it compulsory to not pay government benefits may be denied to them.

If we wish to make the budget people-friendly along with wealthy persons and want to increase exports, then for this purpose, small industries must be given relief. Cottage industries must be developed. The government must pay more incentives. This will stabilize the national economy as well. The government must concentrate on the law-and-order situation and make improvements. Secondly, the establishment of industries must ensure the collection of existing revenues. Thirdly, those segments of society that do not pay their taxes should be compelled to pay them. Fourth, the price of petrol and general sales tax should be reduced. In this way, not only will the general public's confidence in the government be increased, but they will also accept the budget with open hearts.

Daily News Paper Dated 30th May, 2007

NEW BUDGET – FEARS AND EXPECTATIONS

On the one hand, the government claims economic stability and prosperity in the country, while inflation has increased. Government officials claim that an increase in the volume of foreign reserves and economic agreements is a sign of development. The opposition claims that the year 2006-07 was the worst in terms of economic growth. Apart from the political confrontation, a man has many expectations from the new budget that it will relieve him.

The government has announced that the new budget for eliminating poverty, skill training, and increasing wages and salaries is 2 trillion rupees, allocated for the project. Federal Secretary of Finance, Mr. Naveed Ahsan, said garment cities will be established in Lahore, Karachi, and Faisalabad. The agriculture sector will be developed, and Baitulmal and Khushal Pakistan programs will be continued to eliminate poverty. In government priorities, the issuance of small loans to ordinary people and the construction of low-cost housing schemes are included. Good aims and initiatives could be practical only when there is willpower. In Pakistan's economy, agriculture is vital: wheat, cotton, rice, fruit, and other commodities, including sugarcane, keep the wheels of our industries moving.

When crop production exceeds imports, decreased imports can easily save foreign reserves, and exports boost the national exchequer. However, according to a report, the farm sector's share of the national economy has been reduced due to the government's negligence. In the previous years, agricultural production decreased to 21 % from 28 %, while industrial production increased.

Experts from different sectors conducted a survey regarding agricultural and industrial production. They discovered that the farm share of the national economy has decreased while the industrial share has increased. Due to the encouragement of new housing schemes, agricultural land has been reduced, and agriculture is moving towards decline.

Farmers are already distraught that Power, diesel, and petrol prices have increased production costs due to using third-rate drugs, substandard fertilizer, and expired seeds. People attached to the agriculture sector blame the government for wanting to impose taxes on everything but being reluctant to provide facilities.

The National Economic Council has allocated a reasonable amount for the next financial year, and the council claims that next year, a big wave of prosperity will emerge in the country. The national economy could be established on sound footing in the Agriculture, Education, and Health sectors if the announced money is utilized honestly and the fixed targets are adequately achieved.

In Pakistan, if the statistics regarding donations provided by the World Bank, Asian Bank, UNO, China, Japan, and other countries are collected, the total amount reaches up to billions of rupees. Still, due to poor strategy and the bureaucratic working style, most of the money is spoiled and never reaches the deserving hands. Another aspect is the excess of useless, nonproductive expenses. During previous regimes or with present governments, the bureaucracy always convinces them that economic development is at its peak.

This week, the advisor of Finance to the Prime Minister, Mr. Salman Shah, told in a press briefing that the volume of the following financial budget for the year 2007-08 Pakistan will be between 10.92 trillion rupees to 20 trillion rupees, whose final decision will be taken during the announcement of federal funding. Agriculture, food, and energy will be subsidized for Rs.220 billion. He said that development expenses will be 520 billion rupees in the next budget, and many development projects will be started with the public-private partnership. In the next budget, the target for the financial deficit will be fixed at 4 % of GDP while the target for the inflation rate will be 6.5 %, and the target for revenue collection will be fixed at more than 10 trillion rupees.

Besides this, the government will allocate 200 billion rupees for subsidies and grants. The defense budget will be less than 3% of GDP, and the social sector will be given special attention. The health and education sectors will be given more funds. The thinking of an ordinary man says that unless and until the gap between initiative and implementation is reduced, there is little chance of improvement. Undoubtedly, Pakistan is an agricultural country, but the industrial sector cannot be separated from getting relief, and Pakistan's economic development and stability will not be possible.

In the past, the government had claimed that they were willing to improve the standard of life of an ordinary man. Still, the increasing trend of suicides, increase in unemployment, and a lot of people living below the line of poverty reject these towering claims. Suppose even the government is willing to improve the standard of life of the general public. In that case, it must reduce the tariffs on Power and Oil and cut down its lavish expenses by avoiding imposing new taxes. The budget for the health sector should be increased, and the funds allocated for the education sector must be increased so that facilities may be available to an ordinary person.

Pakistan, a country of more than 160 million populations, does not demand anything except some basic facilities. By confronting the political and economic challenges, rulers could easily make a new valuable budget for the general public and attract the majority. Through this, they can win their hearts. Will any Minister or Authority in a high-level meeting bring this point to the agenda for in-depth discussion?

Daily News Paper 6th June 2007

CURRENT BUDGET-PROPOSALS

While presenting the budget for the next financial year, Minister of State for Finance, Mr. Umar Ayub Khan, expressed such emotions that he mentally prepared the general public to support government policies by announcing fabulous measures. One analyst has termed the budget as an "election budget" because of salaries of government employees, pension of retired employees, minimum wages of laborers, increase in monthly stipend from EOBI, increase in the number of utility stores, and reduction of prices along with the announcement of housing schemes created a lovely atmosphere in the parliament.

In the 60-year history of Pakistan, it was the 51st budget. Due to the traditional political system of Pakistan, the government and opposition always fight with each other, which is the biggest hurdle in the country's economic development. Every government tries to use the available resources whenever a budget is presented. However, the absence of available resources for the national economy is a big question mark; due to the lack of funds, many development projects could not be started. For this reason, it has always been stressed that practical steps must be taken in the right direction to increase foreign exchange reserves. As a result, when foreign reserves increase, such sectors that were ignored due to the absence of funds will be improved by introducing practical steps.

Along with this, there is a need to reduce the volume of non-productive expenses. As far as this budget is concerned, no budget is free of criticism. Still, the positive sides of the budget should be appreciated because positive opinions create good behavior in any society. Anything, vision, or decision, if rejected outright, is not justice. This is why economic experts who closely monitor the economy have not pointed out heavy taxation except in one or two sectors. Specific sectors have been given welcome relief, and such actions must be appreciated without any reservations. Supply of power for tube wells to farmers on reduced tariff and announcement of subsidy of Rs.70 in fertilizer prices are reasonable attempts, and it feels that the government is well aware of problems faced by farmers and the agriculture sector. May Pakistani officials remember the example of India, where farmers were supplied with power, standard fertilizer, and seeds at reduced rates so that the agricultural economy gained strength and farmers could grow more crops with hard work and dedication.

In the present budget for development projects, 5 trillion 20 billion rupees, and for defense, 2 trillion rupees, has been proposed, and to overcome the deficit, a 30 billion rupees loan will be required. Minister of State for Finance has termed this budget "exemplary," whereas anti-government circles are not ready to accept this budget as tax-free. If, for the whole year, prices of petroleum products and tariffs for power and gas have not been increased and prices of daily consumable items do not skyrocket, we agree with the vision of the Minister of State. But during this period, if due to indirect actions, an ordinary person suffers their wages, pension, and increase in the stipend of EOBI will be useless, and the other segments of our society will raise their complaints. On the other hand, the relief package of one trillion 11 billion rupees will prove of no use.

Now, we have to see that under unfavorable circumstances, what strategy does the government adopt to achieve success with such claims, promises, wishes, and ambitions? With a minimum wage of Rs.4600/-per month, life's difficulty for anyone can only be imagined. The real question is the access of an ordinary person to budget relief. If the general public does not benefit from subsidies, it will be termed an inefficient monitoring system. There is no doubt that this budget could be called a balanced budget, but in the light of experience gained from promises made in the past, the past budget is no better.

Eliminating the obstacles to delivering these facilities to the ordinary person is necessary, which is impossible without an effective check-and-balance system.

The dependence on government departments must be stopped to identify the system's faults. For this purpose, the government should media, the press, intellectuals, and various schools of thought so that hurdles in the way of positive steps of government announcements and arrangements up to an ordinary person should be known otherwise creation of 815 clinics in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta and Faisalabad, approval of 5000 utility stores, and benefits from increase in wages and pension will be useless and general public will be deprived of their due benefits.

In areas where utility stores already exist, it has been made mandatory for the buyer to make some purchases before purchasing sugar. Currently, "dal mash" has been sold in utility stores at Rs.57 per kilogram, whereas in the market, it is available at Rs.68 per kilogram. Sugar rates are less than Rs.4 per kilogram cheaper, but each bag of sugar is short of declared weight, which is a common complaint.

These irregularities are not at the government level but are a direct result of the corrupt mentality of administrative staff. However, high officials are involved in this practice. In the same way, the quality of rice and pulses has been rejected. Another government proposal to provide better medical facilities is establishing 815 clinics in Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, and Quetta, employing 5000 persons.

No doubt, the provision of medical facilities is a positive step. Still, instead of spending money to establish these 5000 clinics, it would be wise to pay such an amount for the betterment of already existing hospitals, clinics, dispensaries, and medical centers nationwide. Even today, the rate of mortality in the Thar Desert is horrifying, although this area was the electoral area of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. Similarly, in other areas of the province, vaccines are not available to get protection from diseases, and at the government level, 5000 deaths per year have been admitted. There is also a doubt that shortly, every second Pakistani will be a patient of hepatitis because due to polluted water, an increase in diseases has been recorded. In such a situation, not only the creation of 815 clinics but after deduction from other sources, the received money should be spent on health and education because even today in Pakistan, for every 1254 persons, one doctor, and 20839 persons, one dentist, for 1508 persons one bed in government hospitals and 2671 persons, facility of only one nurse is available.

Nine hundred twenty-four large hospitals, 4712 dispensaries, and 5336 medical centers are working nationwide. Instead of doing new experiments, the present facilities may be improved to get appreciation from the general public. After this, the claims of economic development and attempts to attract foreign investors will succeed. The government targets can be achieved after all efforts, and the government officials must work honestly to ensure the success of the government agenda.

Daily News Paper 13th June 2007

RISING INFLATION – SIMPLE FACTS

“Once in this country, inflation was rated its most significant problem, but now it has become an emergency. This situation has brought the whole society to such a level where every HARAM thing becomes HALAL, where a mother sells her infant, a father receives the price of his adult daughter, adults sell their kidneys for a bring, any dacoit can deprive a passer-by off his money. This is a point where suicide is found to be a necessity, and murder becomes a mandatory act. Oh God, in this country, 2.2 million clerks earn only Rs.3000/- to 3500 /-per month, and nobody is ready to give him a supporting hand. Nobody is here who can put a wall in the way of rising inflation, who can bring out the dead bodies victimized by the typhoon in the shape of rising prices of Oil, Sugar, Rice, and Tea, who can prevent the acts of robbery in the name of quality education, who can prevent pharmaceutical companies from their illegal acts, who can extinguish the rising flames of expensive Petrol, Oil’ Gas and Electricity.

The paragraph above was written by a well-known columnist and intellectual on 22nd March 2002 in a leading newspaper who was highly worried at Gen. Pervaiz Musharraf's ignorance of inflation issues and rising prices of daily consumable items. But think about a while ago, eight years ago, when the level of inflation was at such a horrible stage, as narrated in the above paragraph. And then, what is the present situation? The present situation has been worse than it was in the previous period.

According to official statistics, the prices of daily consumable items have increased by 300%, while the news about the horrible increase in inflation in the media is no longer breaking news. It is being treated as routine news. The demon of inflation has tightened its bloody claws on the country and is swallowing the Pakistani nation completely.

Last month, on Friday, February 19th, 2010, and again on Tuesday, February 23rd,2010, to stop the rising inflation and increase in the prices of daily consumable items, members of the national assembly commented as the public worries reached the house. Members of the ruling party and opposition members posed the question of who would eliminate the curse of inflation, poverty, unemployment, terrorism, and unrest.

Members of the upper house and the Senate have complained that the ruling coalition has not taken practical steps to abolish the rising prices of commodities. In the debates, some Senators have passed harsh remarks in whose response the government officials may put forward many arguments. Still, an ordinary person who faces hardships in public transport, even after paying more fares and standing for hours in long rows to purchase expensive items for daily use, possesses harsher views. The worst thing is that an ordinary man gives highly discouraging remarks about the public representatives due to the government's poor performance.

The joint version of opposition members in the Senate of Pakistan was evident, which says that during the previous government, the prices of daily consumable items continued even after the new government's takeover. The comments given by certain members of political parties who are part of the government coalition were an exposure of self –accountability. These members

thought the government had failed to control the rising inflation across the country. They have expressed their worries about inflation, unemployment, and poverty and stressed to the government that urgent steps must be taken for the betterment of poor persons.

Senator Abdul Khaliq Peerzada of MQM, while participating in the debate, said that if poor people were subjected to death due to starvation, then they would attack the parliament and palaces of rulers. Prof. Mohammad Ibrahim of Jamaal Islami said that the government was selling petrol at the international market rate, which is received from Saudi Arabia at reduced rates and earning billions of rupees. In contrast, in the name of national understanding, billions of rupees have been spent without legal justification.

While participating in the debate over inflation, Senator Haroon Akhtar of the Muslim League (Hum Khayal Group) said that due to the increase in the prices of petroleum products at the international level and the world economic crisis, its impacts were also witnessed in Pakistan. Still, the present government has deliberately tried to save itself by accusing the previous government, which is entirely baseless and illogical.

In Pakistan, inflation is still out of control, and petrol and essential commodities are increasing rapidly. Due to the depreciation of the Rupee, the crisis became worse. After getting a loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), our economic system went into the IMF's custody, and after this, prices of Power, Gas, and Petrol increased many times. Reduction in exports and withdrawal of subsidies on different items by the government also caused the increase in country-wide inflation.

Senators of other political parties also participated in the debate and, while elaborating on the reasons for the rise in inflation and the effort to curb it, stressed upon the government that the government must take solid and concrete steps to control inflation. How no more promises, baseless claims, and slogans could be. How long does an ordinary person endure hanger?

Undoubtedly, the government's priority must be control over prices because every person is directly affected by increased prices of essential commodities. In contrast, the rise in the prices of basic items, mainly found items on the basis, presents a unique tendency in the country's history. In the past days, when prices were increased, then for some months, the prices were kept stable, but now there is no stability in the prices of any item, and the writ of the government is not visible anywhere in the market. Frequent increases in the prices of petrol and due to that increase in the prices of other essential items of daily use have made the ordinary person mad. 90% of the country's population is apprehensive that due to the daily increases in the prices of essential items of daily consumption, they cannot meet their nutritional demands. How could they arrange the money for house rent, transport utility bills, and other expenses? This situation is shocking in such a country, which possesses vital importance due to its primary status as an agricultural country.

The primary reasons and causes for the increase in inflation, which we have already narrated in the above paragraphs, are an increase in the prices of items of essential consumption (electricity,

Gas and Petrol), a reduction in exports, an uncontrollable rise in imports, continuous depreciation of the rupee, an increase in the production cost and constant growth in inflation. At the same time, the most critical and fundamental factor is that the government does not try to control these factors, which caused the increase in inflation and the steps that were simply a showpiece.

Smuggling, Hoarding, and illegal profit-making are also essential factors behind rising inflation. If the government only tightened its control over Hoarding and illicit profit, the situation may have improved, but no steps have been taken.

Therefore, nothing can be achieved by only taking notice. The government must closely monitor market fluctuations and balance the supply and demand of essential items so that no crisis surfaces. In contrast, hoarders of any item must not be allowed to increase prices and create an artificial shortage.

The country is indeed suffering from unrest, terrorism, and instability, along with severe economic, financial, and constitutional crises. Still, this does not mean that ordinary people should bear the whole burden of such a situation.

A period of 62- 63 years is more than enough. We should discard the ad hoc system and permanently make solid and practical arrangements so that financial and economic affairs may progress positively.

For this purpose, all affairs must be re-assessed, and a solid strategy must be adopted to improve. To give false and fabricated assurances to people, the practice of issuance of notices is outdated, and now, it is necessary to take some practical steps and actions.

Daily News Paper 14th and 15th March 2010

CRY OF WATER- PAKISTAN IS THIRSTY

The impacts of Indian water aggression and terrorism have been emerging in Pakistan. Since the creation of Pakistan, India has never tolerated Pakistan as a real neighboring country and has never given it the status of a traditional neighbor. At the time of partition, whether it was a diversion of assets or other issues, India has always deprived Pakistan of its due rights. Pakistan is also deprived of the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people. They were willing to affiliate with Pakistan at the time of partition in August 1947; however, India captured the valley by force. This act is also to deprive Pakistan of its due right over Kashmir. It was proved later because the origin of all rivers entering Pakistan is in India. It means that in the shape of Kashmir, the central vein of Pakistan is in the hands of India. India has demonstrated such an attitude in the past, and now it is openly carrying out water aggression. This is a new kind of war India started against Pakistan.

India has started the construction of five dams, including the Kishan Ganga, in occupied Kashmir. The construction of these five dams over River Jehlum and River Chenab will create a massive water shortage. In case of any earthquake, Pakistan has to face heavy destruction due to this situation. Among these Indian dams, the Sawalkot Dam is the largest and most sensitive dam. In occupied Kashmir, the under-construction Sawalkot Dam is 640 Ft, 485 Feet. Higher than the Tarbela Dam and 453 Feet higher than the Mangla Dam of Pakistan. Swalkot Dam is even higher than the Baglihar Dam and has a water storage capacity of 13% more than the Baglihar Dam.

Water experts say that if India constructed the Swalkot dam, the river Chenab would dry completely, and millions of acres of land would be converted into desert. In Pakistan, severe geological and environmental changes will occur, and millions of agricultural lands will be dry. Last month, a report was released which was prepared by the Indian government and the administration of occupied Kashmir, according to which, in the occupied valley, work on seven projects of water is under progress. Along with these, nine infrastructure and road projects have been started, although Pakistan has not been informed of these development projects.

According to the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 between India and Pakistan, India is bound to inform Pakistan six months before any development project over rivers starts. The Indian government increased the total amount spent on the 330 megawatts Kishan Ganga project from Rupees 33 billion to 37 billion in January last year. After sorting out various problems, work has been started on the project, and it is expected to be completed by 2016. Pakistan has opposed these projects for over a decade because the water flow towards the Jehlum River will be stopped. In this connection, no result has been obtained from dialogues made between both countries.

If we look at the construction of dams in India, a big contrast will be seen. Pakistan has only three large dams, whereas India has 17 large dams. In Pakistan, there are only seven under-construction dams, whereas in India, 37 are under construction. Pakistan is planning to construct a total of 35 dams, while India is planning to build 318 dams. Pakistan will get 93615 megawatts of power from these proposed dams. Pakistan utilizes only 12% of its total Hydropower capacity of 55000

megawatts, while China and India have 30%, and other developing countries use up to 70% of their total capacity.

Given all these factors, Pakistan should increase to raise its capacity. If we don't utilize these natural resources, we will suffer badly in the future. The same happened in 1952-53 when the food crisis developed due to a lack of water. Therefore, the problem of water is a problem of life and death for Pakistan. Pakistan has to solve this issue as a top priority. Due to the current water crisis, experts say Pakistani agriculture could be affected badly, and large crops in Pakistan may reduce production from 40% to 50%.

River Indus has nearly dried up, and the country is heading towards starvation. Without rain and snowfall, rivers dried up. As given above, the human contribution is the construction of dams over various rivers originating in Kashmir, a sheer violation of the Indus water treaty. To overcome this conflict, a three-member Indian delegation headed by its commissioner Arunga Nathan has returned to India after a five-day visit to Pakistan in the current month. The members of the delegation have refused to stop the construction work over dams in occupied Kashmir. In contrast, all leading politicians and even the Indian media have exposed every detail of this issue.

As per Pakistan Indus commissioner Mr. Jamaat Ali Shah, Pakistan has decided to approach the International Court of Justice and the World Bank to get justice. Chairman of Sindh Tass Water Council Pakistan and coordinator of World Water Assembly Hafiz Zahoorul Hasan says that water shortage in Pakistani rivers has turned into a dire situation, and the reason for the creation of this problem is the construction of more than 62 dams over river Chenab, Jehlum and Sindh originating from river Indus. Out of these, 44 small and large dams have been completed, whereas construction of 5 to 7 large dams over rivers Chenab and Jehlum has been started.

According to Hafiz Zahoorul Hasan, out of 18 essential headworks of Pakistan, discharge from 13 headworks is zero. River Chenab has completely dried off. Fisheries are dying, and birds are migrating to other places. According to a recent research report, only 20% of water comes in, while River Chenab and River Jehlum have entirely dried up.

Due to this situation in Punjab, 19 large and 2791 small canals, 11050 distribution, and 1006 nullahs have been closed. In contrast, there is a significant danger of a reduction of water level between 80% to 90%, which will disturb crops badly, and the whole reliance will go on rains and tube wells operated by electricity and oil. To stop the water for Pakistan India is not only a policy to promote its agriculture and increase water reservoirs, but it's a part of their defense strategy to destabilize Pakistan.

According to a well-known American scientist and water expert, "Mr. Thol," no country can destroy its enemy like India by blocking the water from Kashmir. In this way, India, without firing a single shot, can give Pakistan the worst defeat". Concerning water shortage, no country can make any compromise over water with anyone; we should also do the same. Due to the importance of water, it is said today that in the future, the reason for wars will be water. Be

assured that the future war between India and Pakistan will be caused by water. Pakistan will not allow their cruelty to construct dams to hurt Pakistan. For this, we have to act as early as possible. Our local, international, and diplomatic strategy must be to solve the problems caused by India on an urgent basis. Countries worldwide, including India, are concentrating on increasing their water reservoirs. At the time of the creation of Pakistan, the country's canal system and fertile lands were known worldwide. Still, later on, the whole situation turned worse, and the land producing gold due to Indian water aggression, terrorism, and bluffing turned into desert at a slow speed. Today, the position is that in a country where stories of sweet and flowing water are told everywhere, its inhabitants are thirsty for water in every corner. From every side, a cry emerges: "PAKISTAN IS THIRSTY."

Due to Indian aggression and conspiracy, a conflict has emerged between the provinces of Pakistan. I will give readers a detailed account of it in the following article. Therefore, given the current situation, the government has to take urgent concrete steps. The government, along with the members of the assembly and senate and with the co-operation and consultation of highly important and intelligent technocrats, must formulate a solid and lasting policy to face India's water aggression and terrorism because due to the shortage of water, the whole country is facing agricultural problems as well as a reduction in electricity. India is also supporting terrorists in one way or another, which must be stopped. One hundred eighty million people in this country face the worst circumstances due to the continuous load shedding of Power. The country's industries are also suffering a loss of billions of dollars, which will increase with time. Before our beloved country faces a situation like Somalia and Ethiopia, our country must bring up the issue of water shortage at different international forums, and along with the public sector, all the country's assemblies must protest against Indian water aggression. Pakistan must also raise its tough stand in the proposed Pak-India dialogues over Indian water aggression.

Daily Newspaper 17th March 2010

YOUTH- MAJORITY UNDER GRASP OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Our country, while facing many problems, is also facing a severe issue: unemployment. In its recent country-wide survey, a private firm with a good reputation declared poverty, inflation, and unemployment the country's most prominent and highly critical issues because unemployment creates many significant problems. Due to unemployment, incomes decrease to zero, whereas expenses do not reduce and run at the usual speed. An unemployed person to carry on his own and family expenses is bound to use all legal and ill-legal means, and while struggling over this, he either becomes a part of any criminal group or, due to mental depression, becomes an addict and lives like a paralyzed human being who is unaware of his surrounding world.

Poverty is the outcome of economic disorder and social injustice, as well as ineffective government policies and unjustified division of national resources. Unemployment is also the main reason for this situation. Unfortunately, Pakistan is included in those countries where the number of jobless, educated, and skilled persons is around four million, and this figure does not include the number of ill-literate and unskilled persons. Such a large number of unemployed, while not getting a respectable means of livelihood, are victims of the worst type of psychological and mental breakdowns.

In societies where skilled and educated persons do not secure respectable job opportunities based on their educational qualifications and professional expertise, those societies suffer in every respect. Those countries' law and order situation always deteriorates, crime rates reach their peaks, and corruption, moral decline, thefts, and forgery, along with murder and anarchy, cover the whole society. Human history presents the conclusion of experience and observations based over centuries that three apparent negative attitudes develop due to unemployment. Firstly, Crimes; secondly, moral decline; and thirdly, revolt.

Therefore, in a society where crimes, moral decline, and sentiments of revolt are increasing, culture and country are permanently deprived of development and solidarity. In such a society, progress cannot be achieved at any cost. Therefore, the complete elimination of economic disorders in a society must first be necessary.

Experts of sociology, psychology, and Anthropology give a calculated opinion that when in a state, all available resources and capital come under the monopoly of the privileged class. A situation of instability has a heavy chance of promotion. At the same time, economically, the poor become poorer, and the rich become more prosperous daily, and in the end, the middle class disappears. A broad economic gap occurs between these two classes of society, ultimately becoming a significant national disaster or a bloody revolution.

It is miserable that in our motherland's land, only two or two and a half percent of the aristocratic class has captured all national resources and capital. Furthermore, the ruling class has never tried to adopt any solid measures to end the monopoly of the privileged class in the country's history. Since 1988, there has been a ban on employment in government jobs, and for the last many years, this ban has not been lifted; therefore, highly educated post-graduates and Ph.D. degree holders

could be seen in search of suitable jobs. If, in any exceptional case, any federal or provincial government has announced lifting such a ban for a few days, it was never implemented in its true sense and spirit. Whenever such an announcement was made, thousands of applicants were witnessed standing in a long queue for long hours.

In the past, on the one side, many governments imposed a complete freeze on employment, resulting in a large unemployment scale. On the other hand, the members of ruling parties and relatives of members of national and provincial assemblies obtained appointment letters in the Excise, Income tax, Customs, and Food departments, along with direct postings in the Police and Revenue departments. As Tehsildar and Naib Tehsildar considered highly lucrative and profitable jobs in our country in the last decade of the 20th century, many unemployed youths were bound to do low-paid jobs such as street vendors.

Although these jobs are not a crime, overlooking any citizen's ruling qualification and capabilities is a serious crime. Due to this attitude of various governments, a large number of highly educated, skilled, and intelligent young persons were forced to commit suicide, self-immolation, and addiction, and a lot of these youth also entered the dark valleys of crime.

According to the latest survey by the Asian Development Bank, 37,82,000 persons are jobless, including 200,000 graduates, while more than 50,000 master's degree holders are also unemployed in our country. Despite many steps the governments took to control unemployment in the country, the unemployment rate has gradually increased; if no action has been taken, then the number of unemployed persons will increase due to an increase in population.

According to this survey by the Asian Development Bank, the highest unemployment rate is in Frontier province, which is 13%; in Baluchistan, 9 %; in Punjab, 7%; and in Sindh, 6% has been recorded. This is alarming; the national population is increasing by 3% annually. To overcome unemployment in the country, 1.5 million jobs must be provided.

The steps taken by the government of Sindh to eliminate unemployment have been narrated by a high official who says that "For the elimination of unemployment and to provide jobs to youths, government has introduced Benazir Bhutto Shaheed development program and for this purpose, 2.5 billion Rupees were allocated in the financial year 2009-2010. Out of this amount, 70 % will be utilized for the youth training program, and so far, under this program, 80 thousand youths have been given required training. In addition, jobs were provided to 40 thousand youths across the province. Those employees who recovered from their services on political grounds during previous regimes were reinstated by the present government, and this step has been appreciated as a positive step in reducing the burden of unemployment by the provincial government. Along with this, the Sindh government has also announced the establishment of an industrial zone in Larkana. Due to this, many job opportunities will be provided to the area's unemployed youths."

Daily Newspaper dated 30 March 2010

“VOYAGE OF SERVICES, ALONGSIDE PETARIAN”

Dear Readers, I am delighted to address you on the momentous occasion of the silver jubilee of “The Petarian Association.” This is not just an honor but a testament to the strong bonds we have formed. The association's mission of fostering relationships has blossomed into a mature and robust tree of community. Last year, in 2006, we proudly declared it the YEAR OF SILVER JUBILEE. The concluding session of the Silver Jubilee on 13th January 2007 was a grand musical event at Bahria Auditorium, Karsaz, and Karachi. It was a celebration of our Petarians and their families, who were honored for their outstanding services to the association. Esteemed artists from the country graced the occasion with their performances. The Chief Guest at the awards distribution ceremony was the honorable Chairman of the Senate, Mohammad Mian Soomro.

The Petarian Association, a non-commercial and welfare organization, was established on 4th February 1981 under the Society's Registration Act-xxi of 1860. Our patron, the commander of Pakistan Navy Karachi, also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of Cadet College Potaro. We have made significant strides under the valuable guidance and support of our present Patron-in-Chief, Admiral Sikander Naqvi. Our website, www.petarian.org, is an online debate forum magazine showcasing our mutual performance and other facilities. Becoming a Petarian is as simple as filling out a membership form, a testament to our inclusive and welcoming nature.

Petarian Association's present Central Executive Committee's office bearers and members are working hard to achieve their targets, and due to their untiring efforts, units of the association have been established across the country and abroad. This includes Hyderabad, Sukkur, Quetta, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, and renowned Educational Institutions like NED University, Karachi University, Sir Syed University, and Mehran University are notables.

The work and activities of the Petarian Association are not only limited to our beloved country, Pakistan, but also its effectiveness reaches beyond the borders of Pakistan, i.e., up to Saudi Arabia, North America, and other countries around the globe. Several overseas units have been founded in these countries. The credit for the performance and activity of the Petarian Association goes to present office bearers of the Central Executive Committee and members. About 7000 Petarian are working with dedication and Excellence-at- par in Pakistan as well as abroad, including Pakistan Army, Air Force, Navy, Federal and Provincial Government as Minister, elected Representative, Industrial Representatives, Diplomats, Top civil servants, Education, Health Mass Communication, Sports, Culture, National Airline and Fine art acts. Due to this, not only is the country moving forward, but a nation of high caliber is developing with time. Petarian Association is a welfare organization that believes in human welfare services. Petarians are born for each other; there will be service wherever a Petarian exists. “SERVICE BEYOND PETARO” is a unique slogan.

Free medical camps, educational and other informative workshops, and seminars about environmental pollution awareness were organized in different parts of the country, especially in northern and Azad Kashmir. Like other fellow citizens, pescetarians also distributed medicines, Blankets, clothes, groceries, and other items of daily use among the victims of the earthquake of October 2006 in the Muzzafarabad area of Azad Kashmir.

Petarian Association, once again, through its message of love, peace, tolerance, brotherhood, and unity, will promote its efforts among the Petarian Brothers and throughout the entire Pakistani nation, irrespective of color, caste, religion, and faith.

Cadet College Petaro – Zindabad, Petarian Association – Zindabad, Petarian Brotherhood – Zindabad, _ Pakistan Zindabad

Daily News Paper 18th January 2007