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PERILS OF Climate Change

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Eid Mubarak!

We have been bestowed with a beautiful day 'Eid-ul-Fitr' by Almighty Allah. Our month-long wait is over. I hope you will enjoy this day and be grateful for Allah's blessings.

Our editorial team extends best wishes to our readers. We wish everyone a safe and joyous Eid. Let's all join hands to thank Allah for this wonderful day to pray, care, love and smile.

May Allah bless our life and fulfil all wishes and Dua's. Hope this Eid brings peace, prosperity, and happiness. Let's help poor wholeheartedly. Luckily, no Corona restrictions this year. So, THANKS to ALLAH.

Happy Reading from
The Editor

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By Ms. Iram Zahid

CPEC is a flagship project of BRI. It is a strategic economic project to improve economic connectivity between Pakistan and China. The development of CPEC will be a gamechanger not only for Pakistan but for the entire region.

It is a voyage towards economic co-operation and regionalization at the international level. Pakistan wishes participation of other countries to be a part of this project which will improve the interests of regional countries in the project by easing the conflicts and rivalries. Pakistan and China are not the only countries that get benefits from CPEC, it can also benefit Afghanistan, Iran, and the Central Asian Republics. It is a huge jump forward to integrate Central Asian landlocked states, Western China, and Iran.

It is also planned to connect the Arabian Peninsula and the continent of Africa by establishing a maritime bridge between Gwadar and ports all along the Western Indian coast. Its positive outcomes depend upon the cooperation among regional states strategically.

India claims that CPEC project impinges on its sovereignty which is flagrant propaganda, but India also fears that once CPEC becomes operational and accomplished, Pakistan will overcome its economic challenges.

Pakistan's importance and influence will

increase in the region and India will lose the support of Afghanistan and CAR.

All CPEC projects of phase 1 are completed and now CPEC Phase 2 has commenced. CPEC phase-1 supported Pakistan to develop infrastructure projects and address energy requirements.

The projects accomplished in Phase 1 have already produced dividends and substantial socio-economic advantages whereas CPEC Phase-2 involved multi-billion-dollar investments in Pakistan as most of the Chinese stakeholders had shown their joint interest in investment in Pakistan. Chinese companies are keen to promote their relationships between businesses and the manufacturing industries.

Chinese companies like Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt Company, China Communication Construction Company, Zhejiang Seaport, and Huazhang Technology have also premeditated the investments in 'Low Carbon Recycling Park,' in the Gwadar free zone. Even the European/American companies have shown interest to invest in the projects of CPEC.

In a recent First Multi-model Logistics Conference 2022, President of Pakistan Arif Alvi stated that "The regional countries are eager to transport their goods to Gwadar port, and hence Pakistan needs to put in place a smooth supply-chain system at the earliest." He also highlighted that Pakistan is required to modify its logistic infrastructure too

rather than only developing human resources, to fully utilize the trading prospects offered by growing regional connectivity.

CPEC is an essential project for the future and economy of Pakistan. Regarding CPEC project Phase 2 in the agriculture sector, collaboration and cooperation is needed with China in germplasm resources, capacity building, agricultural product processing, fishery science and technology, aquaculture, aquatic product processing, and agriculture commerce for the agricultural progress under CPEC. Chinese companies are interested in assisting Pakistan to improve the seed quality and per acre yield on smart lines.

In-fact, Chinese companies are also concerned about growing soya beans in Pakistan. Due to the opening of various industrial zones under CPEC, the volume of trade will expand manifold. Although, in Pakistan, fresh steps were being taken for the rehabilitation of industries and industrial growth.

Pakistan and China are also working to increase telecom traffic with new optic fiber connections. In 2018, Special Communication Organization (SCO) initiated the Pak China OFC project which is the first-ever inland telecommunication linkage between two countries. OFC consists of multifaceted opportunities for future ICT enhancements in CPEC trade in Pakistan.



Pakistan and China are considering higher volumes of traffic from several international destinations in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa through Optic Fiber Cables (OFC) implemented under CPEC. Uzbekistan has also shown concern in transporting its products through Pakistan, whereas Iran and Turkmenistan were concerned about the supply of natural gas.

As per Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on CPEC, PM Imran Khan issued special orders to assist Chinese investors. Economic Coordination Committee has approved refunds of Pakistani Rs 100 billion to CPEC Independent Power Producers (IPPs). "Out of which Rs 50 billion have already been paid while remaining Rs 50 billion would be paid soon."

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) will expedite the development of mutual ventures in manufacturing which would incorporate the firms from both borders. Relevant divisions have been directed to step up the work on SEZs, particularly those at Rashakai, Dhabeji, and Faisalabad where some establishment has been done. At an international level, economic challenges have emerged due to the pandemic over the last two

years which has caused an unbelievable loss to the economy. But despite Covid 19, CPEC achieved major progress and both countries achieved huge advancements on CPEC projects without any gaps to boost regional connectivity.

The timely accomplishment and implementation of the CPEC projects was one of the indications of cooperation between Pakistan and China that even COVID 19 could not impact CPEC

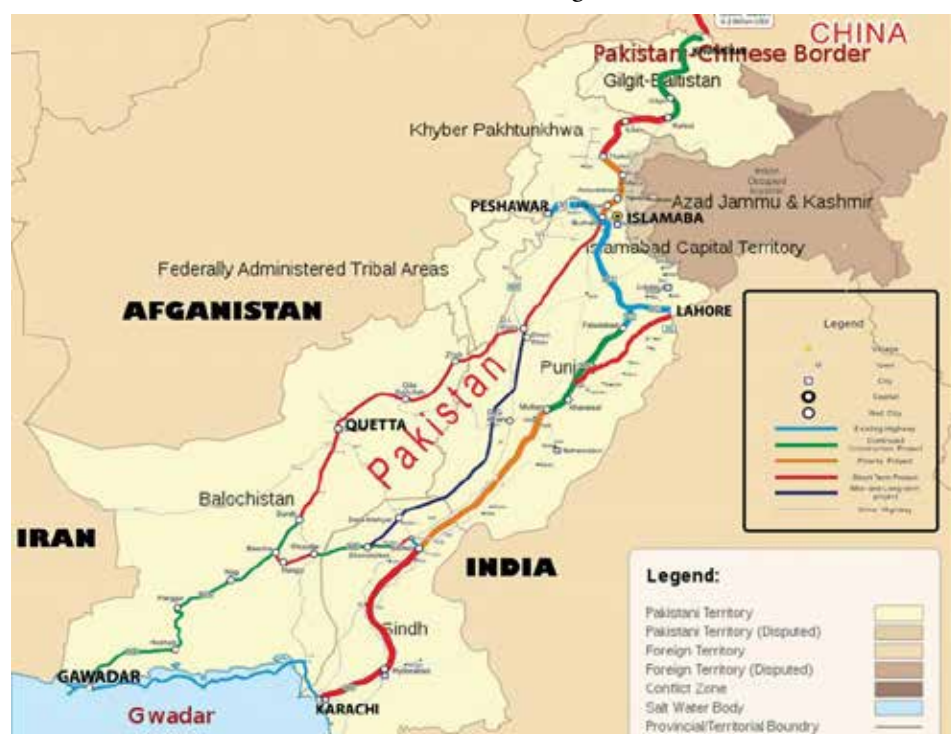
progress. Under the joint efforts of government, enterprises, and companies from China and Pakistan, CPEC has gained a great achievement and made a tremendous contribution to the development of Pakistan and regional connectivity.

CPEC will bring integration and prosperity to the entire region. Pakistan needs to enhance its economic relations with the US/Europe and other countries by inviting them to invest in the projects of CPEC.

Pakistan should facilitate all local and foreign investors to invest in the projects of CPEC and remove all bureaucratic hurdles, one window operation is needed.

Due to CPEC this region can be a hub of economic activities and may be the biggest economic bloc in the world. There is a dire need to address the Maritime component of CPEC otherwise we will not be able to take full advantage of CPEC.

Gwadar and CPEC could play as agents of regional connectivity between China, the Middle East, and Africa which is also helpful and advantageous for promoting Pakistan's maritime interests.





The Perils of Climate Change

By Wali Ejaz

22 April as “Earth Day” went unnoticed by many people following the political situation in Pakistan. Scant attention to the health of the earth is indicative of the apathy towards our survival. The Earth is giving us much but we are contributing very little to make it a better place to live in. Climate change is considered one of the unavoidable challenges the earth is going through. To understand climate change, it would be pertinent to define it. Climate change is a “large-scale, long-term shift in the planet’s average temperatures and weather patterns”. Climate change may occur due to natural changes but the role of human activities is massive and unavoidable.

According to BBC, beef consumption generates a large chunk of greenhouse gas emissions including methane. A small booklet titled “Pakistan’s climate crisis: Climate action now!” published by the Sanjh publications Lahore, mentions that in 2013, the world produced 34 billion tons of carbon dioxide by burning fossil fuels and two billion tons were generated by the cement production. In addition to this, cutting forests contributed four billion tons of carbon dioxide in 2013.

Vally Koubi, A professor and Senior Scientist at the Center for comparative and international studies, has analysed climate change as the nexus to conflict. She writes in her research paper “Cli-

mate Change and Conflict” that either climate impacts directly or indirectly. In a direct way, it affects human psychology and gives way to interpersonal violence. Climatic change raises temperature and latter, in a corollary, increases hostility or aggressiveness among human beings. In an indirect way, climate change paves the way for the paucity of resources which, as a result, creates intragroup violence. Some researchers argue that climate change produces the circumstances for migration which, in a result, triggers or prolongs the existing conflicts.

John Barnett and W. Neil Adger in their research paper titled “Climate change, human security and violent conflict” analyse the challenges climate change creates to human security. They deduce that climate change can undermine the state’s capacity to provide opportunities and services which are essential to livelihood. Secondly, climate change damages human security by curtailing access to natural resources and marring the quality of natural resources. Third is that climate change affects the state’s capacity to ensure people’s livelihoods.

In the context of Pakistan, climate change can wreak mayhem. Countries having less political stability, ineffective governance, and whimsical decision-making would not be able to avert the perils of climate change. Palpably, agrarian societies may have more challenges than non-agrarian societies.

In the Global Hunger Index, Pakistan ranks 92nd out of 116 nations; this could see further exacerbation. Climate Change Knowledge Portal of the World Bank shows that Pakistan is at the level of highest disaster risk in the world as in ‘Inform Risk Index 2019’, Pakistan was ranked 18 out of 191 countries.

Pakistan is already going through troubled and troubling times; climate change would further deteriorate the situation. Unfortunately, we are going back instead of moving forward, as Pakistan is witnessing the highest deforestation rate in the world. According to Dawn, “the country’s deforestation rate has been estimated between 0.2 and 0.5 percent per annum which is the highest in the world”. Given the challenges, a question arises, what is the way out? The answer is given by Mary Meade who is the editor and digital content manager for the NGO “Green America”. He presents ten important ways to grapple with the climate issues such as: Eliminate food waste, eat plant-based, use clean energy, support climate activists, divest (taking money out of those institutions which encourage fossil fuels expansion), improve insulation, use LED lighting, rethink transportation, recycling and last but not the least is buy less.



New Moon Sighting

By Dr Faran A Hameed

The new moon phenomenon comes to light every year once Eid is upon us. Consequently, the ending of the month of Ramazan gets embroiled in a controversy called 'New Moon Sighting'. I asked many of my students and colleagues that since the moon is around for millions of years, what exactly do you mean by a new moon.

And I was astonished to know that the vast majority could not answer the question properly. Therefore, it is important to understand the celestial phenomenon of a New Moon, which happens twelve times a year.

The moon goes in an orbit around the earth that it completes in 29.53 days called lunar month. The earth rotates on its axis and completes one rotation in 24 hrs aprox.

Each day moon covers few degrees in sky while earth makes a complete rotation. Since both, orbit of moon around earth and rotation of earth on its axis, are in counterclockwise direction, the earth catches up on moon every day as it slowly goes by in its orbit.

Finally, comes a point when the moon is directly between earth and sun, where it becomes invisible. The next day it moves slightly forward in its orbit so that the sun light bounces off its lower edge and it becomes visible to us.

The moon goes in an orbit around the earth that it completes in 29.53 days called lunar month. The earth rotates on its axis and completes one rotation in 24 hrs aprox. Each day moon covers few degrees in sky while earth makes a complete rotation.

This is the new moon. And its visible in the western hemisphere, over the western horizon, always because the earth is moving counterclockwise on its axis. Thus each day it moves farther away from sun in its orbit and becomes more and more illuminated as depicted below.

It is easy to understand that it can be pre-calculated when the moon will be visible to whom. The problem with the religious scholars is that while quoting the Hadees on sighting of the moon with ones' own eyes, they do just that – quote the Hadees without exploring

into its manifestation.

What it means and emphasizes is that the process of sighting of the new moon implies 'verification' of the phenomenon that is called the new moon. One must 'Verify' the fact that the astronomical phenomenon has taken place.

The emphasis, to me, is not on 'use of eyes' but the 'process of verification' of a fact through a scientific observation. Unfortunately, the Ulema have lost the essence of the process and emphasize only on the use of the eyes.

Having understood that the 'verification' is the prime objective, and not the utilization of a pair of eyes, one can deduce that other means to the end – verification of new moon – that are available to mankind, must also be utilized; not as an option but as a compulsion, since these means help consolidate the verification process.

These means, of course, are telescopes and scientific calculations on the orbital movement of celestial bodies, that precisely predict the location of a body (moon) at any given time in future. Thus, we must ensure that the new moon sighting is not only left to naked eye but the scientific tools available to us are used so that we are hundred percent sure of our findings, which is the essence of the Hadith.

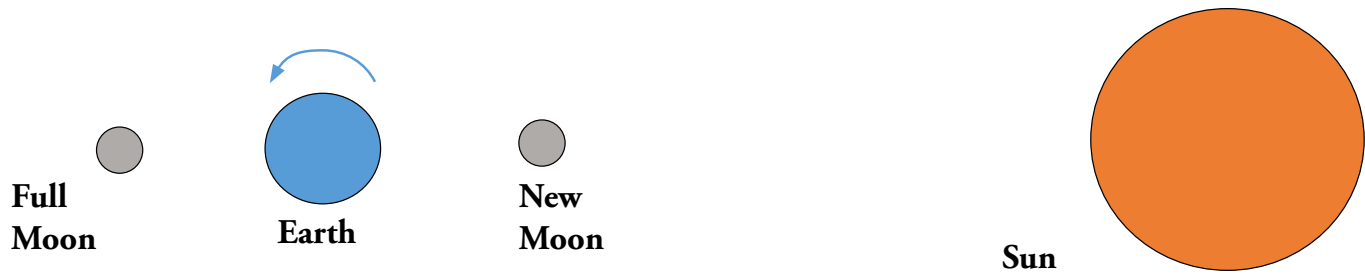


Fig 1. Positioning and movement of moon w.r.t Sun and Earth

Case in point is cloud cover/haze over the whole land mass that may render sighting with eyes useless. Would we not commence the new month having known the fact through scientific tools and means that the new moon is actually upon us? The answer should be that in such a case the new month must commence based on the scientific evidence available to us.

Another point to note is that the West and Saudi Arabia will always see it before us since they are in the western side from us.

In counter clockwise motion of earth, the Sun rises upon us first, whereas the new moon (position A) rises upon them first. Since the earth is moving away from moon (both rotating counter clockwise) it appears on the horizon for a short while, till next day, when it

has moved up a bit farther (position A to B) in its orbit and thus visible a bit

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longer on the horizon. So it goes till it reaches on the other side of earth from the sun (position E) and appears as full moon (see Fig 2 above).

Thus to conclude, we should understand that the phenomenon of new moon is related to its relative positioning is space w.r.t earth and sun. this occurs once every month when moon completes one orbit and is positioned directly between the earth and the sun. The sighting of new moon, as prescribed in our religion, has to do with verification process of the new moon and not mere use of eyesight. This verification in person must be aided by scientific tools such as telescopes. Furthermore, it is very much possible that the moon sighted in Saudi Arabia is not sighted in Pakistan because of the relative positioning of the moon at that moment.

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Fig 2. Various phases of moon as it orbits around the Earth



Disregard For Kalasha Culture

By Adnan Ali

When Mehmud Ghaznavi invaded India in 1036, the conversion of the 'Kafirs of Kafiristan', now Nuristan, was on his checklist. The romantic tales of the Hindukush people (Bashgali and Kalasha) had not only spread over the subcontinent, but also spread rapidly in Britain when explorers mentioned their tales of European descent and forced conversion.

Even Babar had romanticised them and mentioned their fine wine making skills in his autobiography. History has mixed theories on the Kalash, but one narrative that resonates with all historians is that they have been the early rulers of the current region which now makes Chitral.

With the arrival of Islam and Muslim invaders, the Kalasha were pushed back, the Kho people of upper Chitral, who historians contend were Kalasha as well, came to the fore with a new identity and they persecuted and dominated their own kin as newly converted Muslims.

The Kalasha were pushed to the current three valleys of Birir, Rumbur, and Bumburet. Their conversion has been of great concern to the government and international organisations as they colour the region in a different hue with their distinct lifestyle.

At present, the Kalasha are over 3000

in number, threatened by the gradual conversion and encroachment of Muslim settlements. The converted Kalash are called Sheikhs who are also a source of discomfort for their Kalasha brethren.

With all discomfiting affairs, the Kalasha have managed to uplift not only Pakistan's image in the international

space, but also have put the picturesque Chitral valley on Pakistan's map. Whenever somebody says Chitral, the response is always "that's where the Kalasha people live". Simple, grounded and lost in their own world, Kalasha are one of the beautiful people to cross paths with.

The Kalasha culture is a magnet which has turned the small valleys into tourist hubs. The outgoing, joyful, high-energy Kalasha have started to become reclusive because of the sudden onslaught of tourists in their valleys.

A paper published in Quaid-e-Azam University's Journal of South Asian Civilisation titled, "Cultural Commodification and Tourism in Kalash Valley" discusses the impacts of cultural commodification in the Bumburet Valley of Chitral.

The responses from the Kalasha members are unsettling and discomfiting and draw sympathy. For instance: "People can come in huge numbers, we don't have any problem if they follow the rules and be responsible but if they show irresponsibility as they do these days, our people don't send their families to perform our cultural festivals.

Along with our religious rituals, they start to dance or follow us; they don't understand that what we are performing is a religious ritual."

The Kalasha culture attracts a lot of

The Kalasha culture is a magnet which has turned the small valleys into tourist hubs. The outgoing, joyful, high-energy Kalasha have started to become reclusive because of the sudden onslaught of tourists in their valleys. A paper published in Quaid-e-Azam University's Journal of South Asian Civilisation titled, "Cultural Commodification and Tourism in Kalash Valley" discusses the impacts of cultural commodification in the Bumburet Valley of Chitral.

visitors who enjoy the freedom which they find in Kalash valleys, but in their disregard for Kalasha values, their freedom has clouded the open, cheerful Kalasha people to their homes.

The home structures in Kalash are without outer boundary walls and visitors violate their boundaries. People act as if they are unanswerable to no one for their actions and the ignorance people carry is beyond imagination.

The Kalasha festivals hold sacred religious value to Kalasha people like other communities and they enjoy these festivals amongst their people. Often visitors join them uninvited and because of their shy and docile nature, Kalasha do not get rude, but instead place restrictions on their own people and activities.



limited the festivals.

Tourism is not all bad when the benefits go to the intended community or people especially in case of cultural

The Kalasha culture attracts a lot of visitors who enjoy the freedom which they find in Kalash valleys, but in their disregard for Kalasha values, their freedom has clouded the open, cheerful Kalasha people to their homes.

The home structures in Kalash are without outer boundary walls and visitors violate their boundaries. People act as if they are unanswerable to no one for their actions and the ignorance people carry is beyond imagination.

tourism. In the case of Kalash, most of the benefits go to outsiders because they own hotels, transports and restaurants in Kalash valley.

The local community hardly gets 15-20 percent of the benefits. In Bumburet Valley, only four hotels are owned by Kalash people and the rest belong to outsiders.

This leaves Kalasha with no option, but to commodify their cultural items.

People have set up small shops which sell cultural items.

However, the commodification of their cultural items have affected the cultural value of these items which has put the whole community in a financial and cultural conundrum.

The government is now giving due attention to Kalasha valleys and the current KP government has picked a Kalash on their minority seat for the provincial assembly.

The focus on Kalasha safety and development should be a common goal because it will bring communities together.

The writer is a Fulbright Scholar from Chitral. He has an undergraduate degree in Economics from LUMS and a graduate degree in Water, Society and Policy from the University of Arizona.

The in-placed policies are wonderful on paper, but are pale in implementation. Instead, they have started to shun their females to homes like other Muslim neighbours. The insensitive tourism that the government promotes without regard for host cultures and places have put Kalasha in yet another persecution in the name of cultural tourism.

The instability in neighbouring Nuristan and threat of insurgents had also choked the number of festivals Kalasha were celebrating and now the threat of unmanaged tourists has also





Impacts of Populism Across the Globe

By Nazim Uddin

Since the dismemberment of the Soviet Union and the end of History for communism on the heels of providing a free pass to neo-liberal capitalism— which to quote Harvard economic historian Niall Ferguson is neither new nor liberal, and nor capitalism— there has been simmering a sort of uncertainty. The journey from venture capitalism to vulture capitalism, although it created unprecedented growth across the globe, was illiberal for its concentration of wealth— in effect all powers— in the hands of very few people, ushered in disillusionment among the masses across the globe. The more the wealth got concentrated in a few hands without any plan of trickling down, the more discontent it produced quite legitimately.

If it was not enough then came a chain of American overt interventions in the aftermath of 9/11 that too disabused many Third World Countries and made them see the superpower with suspicion or rather undue contempt. This wave resonated quite tangibly among Islamic countries from Africa to Asia and the Middle East.

There has been, furthermore, a certain discontent against the USA among devout Muslims for the former's blatant violation of international norms to support Israel against the Palestinians, but when the support of autocrats, dictators, kings, and other non-democratic forces became manifest, even those Muslims who had appreciated the USA's liberty, freedoms,

education, and progress either put an end to their advocacy or raised their voices against Uncle Sam loud and clear. Eqbal Ahmed and Edward Said among others belong to this camp.

Another mainstay of the post-Cold War world comes from its economic institutions and the way the rich stashed their wealth in the West. While the US-led system provided a lifeline for the countries on the verge of collapse through the international economic institutions like the IMF and World Bank, that too on the client states' requests, the net result turned out to be a pure disaster, partly because of the Fund's namby-pamby understanding of the client state and partly the very conditions of those agreements.

Needless to say that corruption, weak

Since economic crunch exists everywhere, a populist accuses his opponents, who belong to the status quo, as corrupt, incompetent, and dangerous to national interests.

governance, and ineffective institutions coupled with political instability poison any hope of staving off the dependency syndrome. One only has to read the Confessions of an Economic Hitman to fully make sense of the agenda behind the so-called economic aid and the rest.

The way the rich in developing countries are given a free pass to funnel their money to the Western banks via both legal and illegal ways, needs no emphasis. Frank Vogl, who is a leading expert on anti-corruption, in his recent book, *The Enablers*, unveils that a whopping amount of \$2 trillion goes to the West every year from the poorest countries. Out of it, almost \$600 billion reaches the USA alone. This illicit or black money can't be traced even by the guest countries which are known for their viable institutions, let alone the countries which are looted without end.

Although all the above scenarios played against developing countries, the US-led system doesn't bode well for the West either. The gap between the haves and have-nots skyrocketed, engendering a sense of what Pankaj Mishra calls the 'Age of Anger'. For years this precarious trajectory moved ahead until the pandemic came and worsened the situation to a nadir.

In this backdrop of moribund politics, transcendently awful institutions, and a highly narrow base of representation, a demagogue takes the matter to another end. This demagogue, usually a man, identifies the issues at hand precisely— much more like Marxist critiques of capitalism— but nevertheless, he doesn't give any viable way forward apart from some reductive ravings. First, he divides society between two binaries, namely us-vs-them. Since economic crunch exists everywhere, a populist accuses his opponents, who belong to the status quo, as corrupt, incompetent, and dangerous to national interests.



Pakistan's Labour Force

By Dr Izza Aftab

Very recently, in April 2022, as the dust of the political drama starts settling and the country finds herself in a new uncomfortable equilibrium, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics has put out the Key Findings Labour Force Survey 2020-2021. This report is insightful and useful. Amongst a host of patterns that emerge, this piece will focus on labour force participation, patterns of employment and gender pay gap, with a specific focus on agriculture. PBS has gathered data from over ninety-six thousand households to get a representative sample. The sample is divided across the four provinces along the rural urban split. Over the two-year span 2018-19 to 2020-21, the country has employed an additional 3.21 million people which outstrips the increase in the labour force of 3.01 million over the same period.

Punjab has the highest proportion of employed persons normalised by population, while KP has the weakest performance. At the national level, thrice more men than women are employed. We also find that the proportion of people in the labour force, normalised by the country's population, has increased slightly from 32.1 percent to 32.3 percent. Refining this and normalising the labour force by the working age population of Pakistan (age ten years and above), we find that the labour force participation rate has stagnated between 2018-19 to 2020-21.

The LFPR is currently at 44.9 percent. This means that of all people who are of working age in Pakistan, almost forty five percent of them work. The ratio of LFPR is three to one, in favour of men against women.

While Pakistan has a youth bulge, the highest LFPR is observed for the age group of 45-49 years. The LFPR of the age group 25-29 years is at least four percentage points lower. This reminds us of our struggle to create meaningful employment for the country's youth. Despite the fact, the most heartening finding is the drop in unemployment rate across time which is observed for both genders and along the rural-urban divide. The unemployment rate, which measures the proportion of unemployed people in the total labour force, is down to 6.3 percent. In line with older data, we see that rural unemployment is lower than urban unemployment. Twice as many women in urban Pakistan are unemployed compared to women in rural Pakistan. This is so because close to seventy percent of women are employed in agri-based activities while the proportion of women working in more urbane activities like manufacturing, construction, and wholesale plummets to abysmal levels. While this might seem benign enough, it is worth pointing out the wage difference.

Using ILO's framework, the gender pay gap in agriculture in Pakistan is still very high—36.24 percent. The good news is

that this is lower than 2018, when the gender pay gap was 40.69 percent. To put another way, in 2020-21, for every hundred rupees that men employed in the agriculture sector earn, women earn around sixty-three rupees only. This is up from women earning fifty-nine rupees for every hundred rupees that men in the agriculture sector earned in 2018-19. Again, while the gender pay gap is atrociously high, over the period of analysis it has declined and that is an absolutely positive achievement. The overall gender wage gap has almost halved over the period of analysis. So, in 2020-21 for every hundred rupees that employed men earn, women earn around eighty-one rupees. This is up from women earning seventy rupees for every hundred rupees that men earned in 2018-19.

This report paints a rosy picture of the labour force in Pakistan. But some macroeconomic issues continue to manifest. Low LFPR among the youth, urban unemployment which exerts additional pressure on the cities, gender pay gaps and disproportionate size of the informal economy. Moving forward, serious attention has to be paid on generating meaningful employment across the country, specifically in KP which has the highest rate of unemployment.



World Day to End Corporal Punishment

By Khalil Ahmed Dogar

The use of “force”, apparently to “discipline” and “improve” the children, is so deeply rooted in our traditions and social norms, that the reporting of cases and action against culprits is practically none. Corporal punishment is daily happening for many children and it is widely accepted as the inherent right of parents, teachers, religious tutors, (unlawful) employers and those in charge.

Empirical evidence indicates mental health problems and violent tendencies in adulthood as a consequence of corporal punishment faced in childhood.

In Pakistan, corporal punishment acts as ‘compounding factor’ to 44% of the children between age of 5 and 16 who are out-of-school. Corporal Punishment has been globally recognized as a serious threat to the dignity and wellbeing of children.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child Article 19 and 37, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Goal: 16.2 ‘Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions’, Goal 3: ‘Good Health and Well-being’, and Goal 4: ‘Quality Education’, all aim at eradicating corporal punishment from society.

Being a signatory to these international agreements, Pakistan is bound to ensure protection of children. However in reality, Pakistan is still among the countries struggling to eradicate corporal punishment in educational institutions. Some

Pakistani laws such as Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) Section 89, The Punjab Destitute and Neglected Children Act (2004, Section 35) and The KP Child Protection and Welfare Act (2010, Section 44) allow corporal punishment in some form.

This creates hurdles for law makers to exercise improved laws such as The Sindh Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act (2016), Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act (2012), The Sindh Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (2013, Section 13-3), Punjab Free and Compulsory Education Act (2014) and The Gilgit-Baltistan Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act (2015).

It took Sindh province almost 5 years to pass rules of business of Sindh Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Act (2016). This delay has caused thousands of children to suffer. On 23 February 2021, the National Assembly of Pakistan passed ‘ICT Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Bill’ outlawing all forms of corporal punishment in formal and informal educational institutions, rehabilitation centers, foster homes and other child institutions. This law cancelled Section PPC Section 89 which allowed teachers and guardians to inflict physical punishment in the name of ‘so-called’ best interest of the child.

This legislation has also increased the age of childhood to 18 years to meet UNCRC requirements.

For the first time, children have been given the facility to directly complain to a court or a magistrate in case of any grievance.

On December 27, 2021, the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) instructed 423 Federal educational institutions to ensure implementation of the new law. In case of violation, educational institutions will face minor penalties which include halt raise in rank or remuneration or major penalties which include downgrading, enforced retirement, and termination from service.

FDE also instructed all institutions to set up complaint mechanisms for children. There is still a dire need to bring all laws in harmony for effectively eliminating corporal punishment throughout the country.

Using the law in Gilgit-Baltistan as role model, corporal punishment should be banned at homes as well. In addition, improved institutional mechanisms and inadequate resource allocation is also required.

Other recommendations given by experts repeatedly are extensive training for teachers of formal and religious schools, improved curriculum, strengthened School Management Committees (SMCs), and cross sectoral partnerships, for effectively eliminating this practice from society.

—The writer is Programme Manager, Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child.

Horoscope for the month of May 2022

Aries

March 21 - April 19

For you, the biggest news of the month—and maybe even the entire year—is Jupiter entering your sign, where it will stay until October 27. This move heralds a big period of growth for you, in which the universe will assist you in expanding your ambition for success. On another note, Mercury beings its retrograde in your third house of communication, loading your mind with thoughts for the first ten days of the retrograde.

Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Happy birthday, Taurus! With the Sun illuminating your sign for most of the month, May is a huge month for you. Right now, the universe will be pushing you to make big changes that will assist you in the process of self-actualization. Be open to synchronicities as well as doing and seeing things from different perspectives.

Gemini

May 21 - June 20

May is a month of huge introspection for you, Gemini. This month's cosmic shenanigans happen in your sector of subconscious mind, asking you to slow down and recharge. Your planetary ruler, Mercury, also goes retrograde starting May 10, asking you to take a hard look at how you carry yourself socially.

Cancer

June 21 - July 22

Your career goals receive help from the universe this month as both Venus and Jupiter instigate you to go after your dreams. What you begin now could have fabulous long-term effects for the rest of the year, Cancer, so make sure to channel this influence.

Leo

July 23 - Aug 22

Get ready for change, Leo! Your planetary ruler, the Sun, will be traveling very close to wild child Uranus and the Lunar North Node of Destiny. Karmic forces will open and close doors—and unexpected events will time-travel you to places you never even imagined. As life moves at such speed, remember that life is more fun when you lose control and allow the universe to surprise you.

Virgo

Aug 23 - Sep 22

The month of May is set to be quite eventful for you as your planetary ruler, Mercury, retrogrades in your tenth house of career and public reputation. You hold high standards, Virgo, so get ready to make revisions and edits to your current projects, especially between May 10 and May 22.

Libra

Sep 23 - Oct 22

The month of May holds a lot of relationship energy for you, Libra. Your planetary ruler, Venus, spends most of the month in Aries, your sector of relationships. This placement of the goddess of love will require some work on your part, especially when it comes to healing underlying issues within some of your most important bonds.

Scorpio

Oct 23 - Nov 21

May is one of the most important months in your 2022 storybook, Scorpio. Saturn, the teacher planet, has been bringing you lessons for the past few months—and in May, his lessons reach a climax. This is one of those times in which the universe might request you to step up to the plate, and we all know these moments are what you were made for! This is especially true during the May 15 full moon lunar eclipse in your sign.

Sagittarius

Nov 22 - Dec 21

May 10 is a huge day for you as your planetary ruler, Jupiter, enters Aries, where it will remain until October 27. If you've been feeling low lately, this shift could certainly feel like an injection of energy. Since it will be activating your fifth house of fun and romance, it could certainly be good for your love life.

Capricorn

Dec 22 - Jan 19

Healing is a big theme for you with Venus and Jupiter activating Chiron in your fourth house of home and family over the month ahead. While at first, it might be hard to approach certain subjects, this combination of planets can bring the type of healing that eventually generates growth as well as closeness.

Aquarius

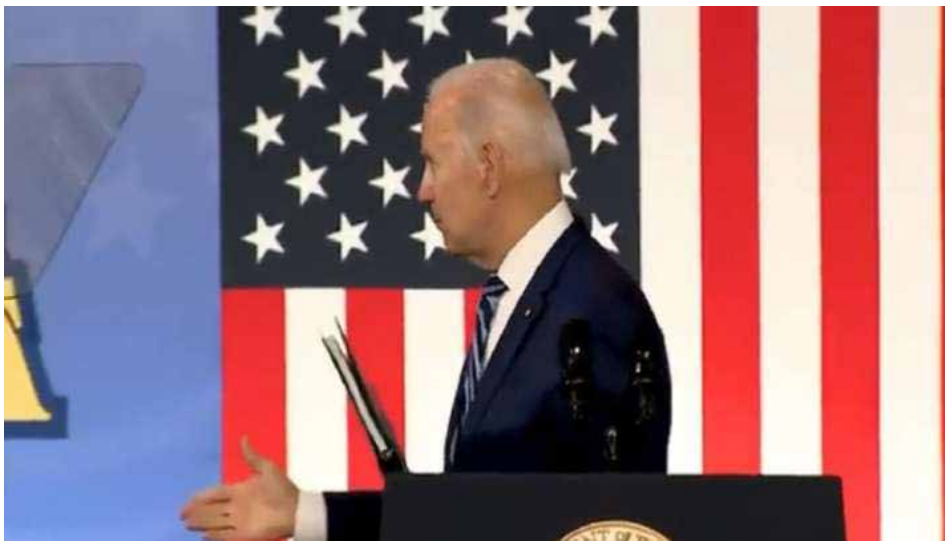
Jan 20 - Feb 18

Aquarius, you also get to call May one of your most important months of the year. You have been learning so much this year—and in May, the universe might quiz you once again! The very good news is that you have the gift of strategy and wisdom with asteroid Vesta traveling so close to Saturn in your sign.

Pisces

Feb 19 - March 20

For you, dear Pisces, the biggest news of the month is Jupiter leaving your sign on May 10. If you have been loving its expansive transit, know it will return later in the year. But if the energy has been just too much for you, then get ready to breathe a sigh of relief. The beginning of this month's Mercury retrograde will affect your sector of home and family.



Now I'm going to buy McDonald's and fix all of the ice cream machines...





- 100% Pure and Farm Fresh Whole Milk
- Freshly packed pollution and dust free
- No preservatives and no harmful medications
- Also provide Cheese, Desi Ghee, Desi Eggs
- Pure Honey, Meat (Mutton/Beef/Chicken)

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