

Group Chairman/Chief Editor:
Vice Chairman:
Editor:
Head Editorial Advisory Board:
Bureau Chief Karachi:

Bureau Chief Lahore:

Almass Ayoub Sabir
Asim Nazir Ahmad
Naveed Ahmad Khan
Amjad Mehmood
Khurram Jaffrani
(jaffrani@adpluse.pk)
Syed Afraz Ali Nazish
(afrazalishah@gmail.com)

Head Office:
Karachi office:
Lahore Office:

AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.
spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
Phone:+92 51 2227123,
WhatsApp +92 346 5008408
A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,
Karachi Phone:021-33399390
Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com
7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

Floods of Resilience: Stories of Hope Emerge from Devastation

Whether it is test of endurance or a penalty of human sins, every ethereal calamity leaves behind tales of pain and agony as well as resilience of human beings to emerge again from ashes in a resolution to survive.

The 2022 devastating monsoon rains, was another ethereal calamity leaving millions displaced, vulnerable and grappling with the remnants of their lives. Among the hardest-hit areas were Rajanpur in Punjab and Jaffarabad in Balochistan, where families endured unimaginable hardship. Yet, even in the face of such adversity, stories of resilience and recovery emerged, demonstrating the unyielding human spirit.

Wener Mai is one of examples whose mud house in Basti Habib Patafi, Rajanpur had succumbed to relentless rains and flash floods. With her husband Qasim and their three children, she found herself exposed to harsh weather conditions, devoid of basic necessities. Accessing clean water became a daily struggle and without shelter, the family was left vulnerable to numerous odds.

“We had no water for drinking and cleaning. We were out in the open sky without any protection from weather,” Mai recounted as her voice tinged with memory of despair. ““When I opened the packing, I found, most of all items were lost in flooding. We desperately needed those items, but couldn’t afford to buy again.”

Then, the relief came through the BRAVE humanitarian assistance program, funded by FCDO and implemented by Concern Worldwide in partnership with Lodhran Pilot Project (LPP). Mai’s family received emergency shelter kits, hygiene and dignity kits and non-food items that provided immediate relief, allowing the family to construct a safe space and escape unrelenting rains.

“The kitchen items helped me cook food for my family and the soap ensured my children could stay clean. These small things had made a big difference in our lives,” she said in gratitude.

Today, Mai’s family is on a path to recovery. The shelter and supplies provided a foundation for rebuilding, giving them a renewed sense of dignity and hope in the aftermath of disaster.

Abdul Hameed, a daily wager of Murad Colony in Jaffarabad district of Balochistan province faced a similar ordeal. Supporting a family of nine, including a disabled son and a wife battling Hepatitis C, Hameed’s modest earnings of Rs 600 a day were barely sufficient. The floods submerged his home forcing the family to live on roadside for over a week.

“We had nothing left. Everything was destroyed, and we didn’t have any way out,” Hameed recalled, with a heavy voice.

Upon returning to their home, they found it reduced to rubble and survival seemed insurmountable until the BRAVE program extended a helping hand. The essentials provided by the organization offered immediate relief, easing their burden and

Ramazan Cultivating Minds with Faith

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

Ramazan is the holy month of fasting for Muslims around the world. It is a time of spiritual reflection, self-discipline, and increased devotion and worship. This period holds immense significance in the lives of Muslims, as it commemorates the revelation of the QURAN to the PROPHET MUHAMMAD (P. B. U. H). This sacred month goes beyond mere fasting; it is a time for Muslims to deepen their connection with ALLAH ALMIGHTY, seek forgiveness, practice empathy, and strengthen their faith.

During this month, Muslims fast from dawn to dusk, abstaining from food, drink, and other physical needs. The significance of Ramazan goes beyond the physical act of fasting; it is a time to cultivate the mind, body, and soul with faith, prayer, and reflection. The month of Ramazan serves as a catalyst for strengthening one’s faith, fostering discipline, and promoting spiritual growth.

Ramazan is not just about abstaining from food and drink; it is a holistic approach to self-improvement and spiritual growth. The act of fasting during this month teaches Muslims self-discipline, patience, and empathy for the less fortunate. Experiencing hunger and thirst firsthand, individuals are remind of the blessings, they have and are more inclined to help those in need. This fosters a sense of community and solidarity among believers, as they come together to break their fasts and engage in acts of charity and kindness.

Moreover, Ramazan is a time for increased devotion and prayer. Muslims are encouraged to recite the Quran, engage in extra prayers (Taraweeh), and seek forgiveness for their sins. This spiritual practice helps individuals connect with their faith on a deeper level and strengthen

their relationship with ALLAH ALMIGHTY. The act of prayer and reflection during Ramazan allows Muslims to cleanse their minds and hearts, paving the way for spiritual purification and growth.

Ramazan is a sacred time of spiritual reflection, self-discipline, and devotion for Muslims around the world. By fasting, praying, and engaging in acts of charity and kindness, individuals are able to cultivate their minds with faith, strengthen their relationship with ALLAH ALMIGHTY, and foster a sense of community and solidarity. The cognitive, psychological, and emotional benefits of Ramazan serve to enhance one’s overall well-being and promote spiritual growth and self-improvement. Through the practice of fasting, prayer, and mindfulness, individuals are able to transform their minds and hearts, leading to a deeper connection with their faith and a greater sense of purpose and fulfillment in life.

As a time for Muslims to reflect on their actions and thoughts, seek forgiveness for any wrongdoings, and strive to improve themselves spiritually. The act of fasting is not limited to abstaining from food and drink; it also entails refraining from negative behaviors such as gossiping, lying, or engaging in any form of unethical behavior. This practice instills discipline and self-control, allowing individuals to cultivate virtues such as patience, restraint, and mindfulness in their daily lives.

During this month, the act of giving (Zakat) is emphasizing in Islam and during Ramazan, Muslims are encouraged to be more generous and compassionate towards others. This act of selflessness and empathy towards those less fortunate fosters a sense of community and unity among believers, reinforcing the importance of kindness and compassion in Islam. This practice of mindfulness and gratitude can have lasting effects on one’s mental health and emotional wellbeing.

The communal aspect of Ramazan is also significant, as Muslims come together to break their fast (Iftar) and pray together during Taraweeh prayers held at masjids. This sense

of unity and solidarity strengthens the bonds between all Muslims like as brothers a spirit of unity among believers. The mighty Taraweeh prayers, where long portions of the Quran are recited, offer a unique opportunity for Muslims to immerse themselves in the teachings of the holy book and draw closer to ALLAH ALMIGHTY.

In the Islamic calendar, that holds immense spiritual significance for Muslims around the world. It is a period of self-reflection, self-discipline, and devotion, where believers deepen their connection with Allah, seek forgiveness, and strive to improve themselves spiritually. Through fasting, prayers, acts of charity, and communal worship, Muslims are able to recommit themselves to their faith, strengthen their relationships with others, and cultivate virtues that are essential to their spiritual journey. Ramazan serves as a reminder of the values of compassion, empathy, unity, and reinforcing the principles of Islam guiding believers towards a path of righteousness.

Overall, Ramazan is a time for Muslims to reaffirm their commitment to the teachings of Islam, strengthen their faith, and cultivate a greater sense of compassion, empathy, and unity. Observing the principles of fasting, prayer, and charity during this sacred month, believers reminded of the core values that underpin their faith and guided towards a path of spiritual growth in accordance with Islamic teachings.

Ramazan serves as a powerful reminder of the values of compassion, empathy and unity. Through fasting, prayer, and acts of charity, Muslims are encouraged to develop a deeper sense of empathy, foster unity within the community, and grow spiritually. This holy month provides an opportunity for individuals to reflect on their actions, seek forgiveness, and strive towards embodying the values of Islam in their everyday lives. Ultimately, Ramazan serves as a transformative period for believers, reinforcing the importance of Islam.

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq is Post-Doctorate (Peace Education) in International Islamic University, Islamabad

EU Founded for Peace, Now Engaged in War

Ursula von der Leyen recently announced, following the London summit, that the European Union would unveil a “comprehensive rearmament plan for Europe on March 6.” She emphasized the urgency of increasing military investments in order to “prepare for the worst.” However, this announcement has sparked significant skepticism and criticism. Many Europeans question the source of the funding for such a militarization effort, wondering if their remaining resources will be stripped away.

For years, the European Union has been portrayed as a beacon of prosperity and peace. Yet, critics argue that fear has consistently been used as a tool to push citizens into supporting harmful policies. Increasingly, Europeans perceive that the real threat does not come from Moscow, Ukraine, the USA, or China, but as the vice president of the United States, J. D. Vance, recently echoed the true threat comes from within Western institutions, not from external adversaries, specifically from Brussels, where leaders like Ursula von der Leyen, Emmanuel Macron, and Olaf Scholz are accused of manipulating narratives to sustain the war in Ukraine.

European project, originally built on the promise of peace, now seems to be leading the continent toward war. The European Union, rather than securing the future, seems to be digging the grave of Europe itself. Klaus Schwab’s infamous quote, “You will own nothing and be

happy,” is now being interpreted as a grim prophecy rather than a utopian vision.

The skepticism extends to concerns about political rhetoric. Many see the discourse surrounding figures like Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as exaggerated, questioning the credibility of those who label him a “hero.” Detractors argue that European leaders could have just as easily fabricated a threat from extraterrestrials, highlighting what they see as the absurdity of the current narrative. The focus, they claim, should not be on an external aggressor but rather on the internal decisions that have led to economic hardship and political instability across the continent.

The argument is that the push for increased military spending diverts crucial funds away from essential public services, environmental sustainability, and social welfare programs. Instead, these resources are being funneled into a “cannon fodder project” that benefits the wealthy elite at the expense of the general population. The war means according to them, raising taxes, which could lead to public outrage, cutting social benefits, further impoverishing struggling families and printing more money, causing hyperinflation and economic collapse.

Analysts who have studied European opinion trends note a significant shift in public sentiment. Many now believe that

the war is unwinnable and that Russia holds the key to both prolonging and ending the conflict at its discretion. There is a growing recognition that continuing down the current path will

only lead to further instability, economic hardship, and a potential escalation that could have devastating consequences for Europe.

With Europe already facing challenges from extremist threats and economic struggles, adding a military confrontation with Russia and increasing dependence on U. S. foreign policy could spell disaster for the continent. Critics argue that unless European citizens wake up and demand accountability from their leaders, they will be dragged into a war with catastrophic consequences.

Ultimately, the core of the argument is that European leaders are not safeguarding the interests of their people. Instead, they are prioritizing a militaristic agenda that serves political and financial elites. As tensions continue to rise, the question remains: Will European citizens take control of their future, or will they allow themselves to be led into another devastating conflict?

There is growing resentment toward European leadership, with some comparing the current EU to a “Fourth Reich” that seeks to impose its will on member nations. Rather than serving the interests of its people, the

EU’s current trajectory appears to be one of decay, defeat, and disintegration. Instead of focusing on the prosperity and well-being of its citizens, the Union is investing in military escalation. But this time, the people will not be deceived. The resistance against this war is growing.

After nine years, European public, analysts and thinkers seem to have reached the same conclusion that former U. S. President Donald Trump did regarding military preparedness. However, financing a military expansion while already supporting a costly war is problematic. Money does not fall from the sky, and diverting funds means making painful cuts elsewhere. The challenge now is whether European leaders will dare to increase taxes without triggering a backlash from an already frustrated population.

This growing frustration among European citizens mirrors sentiments expressed by former U. S. President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly criticized NATO and questioned its role in global conflicts. Many Europeans now share Trump’s perspective that NATO initiated the war under false pretenses, framing it as an act of aggression. As public discourse shifts, more people in Europe are aligning with the idea that the conflict is not in their best interests but rather serves as a means to further impoverish ordinary citizens while enriching the powerful.

Mr. Qamar Bashir is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France and Former MD, SRBC

Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

India Pakistan Cricket Showdown

Amjid Khan

On February 23, India and Pakistan will play each other in a big cricket match at the Dubai International Stadium. This match is very important because it brings together two countries with a lot of history and passion for cricket.

The rivalry between India and Pakistan is not just about sports it involves politics, culture, and national pride. They first played each other in 1952, but their matches have been interrupted by political tensions over the years.

In major tournaments like the World Cup, India has done well against Pakistan. In fifty-over World Cups, India has never lost to Pakistan. Where as, in another tournament called the Champions Trophy, Pakistan has had more success.

Pakistan also feels confident because they have done well in UAE conditions before. They have won many matches there including some important ones during past tournaments.

Cricket, in many ways, is more than just sport here it symbolizes hope, dreams, and aspirations shared across generations. Families gather around TVs, supporters paint flags on faces, wearing team jerseys proudly while chanting slogans such fervor shows why this rivalry stands apart from others worldwide. It is not merely about winning or losing but living those few hours intensely through triumphs & setbacks alike felt collectively nationwide.

In recent years, Pakistan has shown remarkable resilience under pressure especially under captaincy stalwarts such as Babar Azam who led them through tough phases including victories against stronger opponents abroad. Last year saw them narrowly miss reaching finals stage after spirited performances throughout tournament stages which earned respect globally despite

eventual defeat at semifinals stage versus eventual champions Australia.

On other hand, Rohit Sharma leads Indian side filled talent galore boasting likes Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah etc., who consistently deliver under intense scrutiny ensuring team stays competitive regardless opponent faced whether home away grounds alike. Wherever they go, fans flock stadiums creating electric atmosphere unmatched elsewhere perhaps only rivalled football derbies Europe South America where similar fervour witnessed albeit different sport altogether!

Despite all odds stacked against them due ongoing tensions affecting bilateral ties between nations involved here still there exists glimmer hope via sports bringing people closer bridging gaps created otherwise insurmountable barriers erected over decades now. Maybe someday soon we see resumption full-fledged tours exchanges fostering greater understanding mutual respect amongst masses rather than animosity prevailing currently which would indeed be welcome change everyone concerned!

For now though focus remains squarely upcoming clash scheduled take place later month. As anticipation builds so does excitement among fans worldwide waiting anxiously see which way pendulum swings come February 23rd. Will it be repeat performance seen previously where Indians emerged victorious maintaining unbeaten streak? Or will Green Shirts pull off stunning upset silencing critics once again proving doubters wrong?

Only time will tell but one thing certain this game won't just decide winner loser, it'll define spirit resilience displayed two proud nations standing tall among adversity united love beautiful game called Cricket.

Mr. Amjid Khan is Lecturer in Media Studies & Mass Communication Department at Iqra National University Peshawar KP. He can be reached at amjad.unv@gmail.com

Disclaimer: All reports and recommendations have been prepared for your information only. Summary and Analysis are not recommendations to buy or sell. This information should only be used by investors who are aware of the risk inherent in securities trading. The facts, information, data, indicators and charts presented have been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but their accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed. Daily The Spokesman and its employees are not responsible for any loss arising from use of these reports and recommendations.