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TERROR ENGULFS PAKISTAN

Last week the city of Karachi witnessed one of the worst terrorist attacks claiming around fifty lives during the religious procession followed by a number of arson attacks. As this newsletter is prepared we have heard of another terrorist attack in Lucky Marwat another city of Pakistan claiming ninety lives during a volley ball match.

We share the pain of all the families who have lost their beloved ones and hope the New Year will be a better year bringing peace globally. Earlier we have reported the news of Col. Mian Manzoor's shahadat for the country whose brother Ajmal is a post doc student at University of Western Australia. We are grateful to all of you who have sent their messages of condolences for the bereaved family and attended the Fateha at Rockingham mosque. At the same time we also share the news of Lt.Col. Farhan Saqib who was injured in the encounter against militants in South Wazirastan. He is now recovering in CMH Rawalpindi after Surgery. Farhan's older brother Zafar Iqbal is also a post doc student in Perth. We are all praying for his swift recovery

Lastly please do consider our appeal for donating to PAWA one book either in URDU or English about Pakistan to initiate our library project. It may be a piece of literature. history etc.

AUSTRALIA DAY IN KARACHI

We will be Insha Allah celebrating Australia Day in Pakistan this year on 26th January. As per number of responses received it will be in Karachi. The details will be announced in next issue but if you are in Karachi on 26th January please do drop us a line at president@pakistanassociation.com.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW WEB DESIGNER

It is a pleasure to introduce Darakhshan who has migrated with her spouse Saqib Sarfaraz in 2006. She has got qualifications in Computer Science and has a Master in Business Administration. Her interests are playing pool, bowling. Surfing (limited to internet) and cooking.

At the same time we are also grateful to Tahir Bhatti who has been associated with our association for quite some time and has been very efficiently looking after PAWA website. Due to increased commitments at workplace he had requested for a volunteer and thankfully we found Drakhshan to help us with our website management.

Executive Committee

2009 – 2010

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PAWA Membership

Individual 15\$ per annum

Seniors 10\$ per annum

Can be deposited electronically or by cheque

Bank : ANZ Bank
Account Name : PAWA
BSB : 016464
Account Number : 560693466

AMAN KI AASHA (A HOPE FOR PEACE)

Shafqat Mahmood (Email:shafqatmd@gmail.com) - **The News** - Friday, January 01, 2010

The calendar is a structure we put on time; otherwise 1st January is in no different from December 31st. Yet, it feels like a new beginning, a fresh start, a metaphorical wiping of the slate clean. It is also a time to take stock, a personal audit of sins past and a resolve to do better.

As a nation too it should prompt reflection, a cold analysis of what we have done right and where we have gone wrong. There are things that have been thrust upon us and we have had no choice but to respond. The assault of militancy and terrorism being an example.

But, then there are issues that could have been dealt with differently not just by us but also by our adversaries. This would not have made them go away because contradictions and conflict are a part of living. The difference between success and failure though lies in how we address them.

India and Pakistan emerged as independent nations after a chaotic and horrendously traumatic partition. Half a million or more Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims were killed and many others subjected to terrible atrocities by crazed mobs. An entire generation in Punjab and some in Bengal were uprooted from their homes and their ancestral land. It left behind a bitter legacy of hate.

It was also natural that arbitrary lines drawn on a hitherto undivided landscape would leave many issues unresolved. Kashmir is one such festering sore that has deeply coloured relations between the two countries. In Pakistan, it led to narratives of being wronged, of bias and injustice.

India's involvement in the separation of East Pakistan further embittered an already sour atmosphere. In Kashmir the path of war in 1948, 65, and 99 did not get any of the countries nearer to its objective. India continues to have an uneasy, tenuous hold on the territory and Pakistan is nowhere close to realizing what it considers is its rightful claim.

The resentment that this conflict and the saga of East Pakistan generated also had an impact on what are normal interactions between neighbouring countries. Tourism, cultural and sporting exchanges, and most importantly trade and commerce have been deeply affected. While the Europeans, South East Asians, and countries of North and South America formed regional trading blocs, South Asians remain mired in hate and mutual suspicion.

It is the people of the region and particularly of India and Pakistan that have suffered because our already meagre resources were diverted towards warfare at the cost of human development. Lack of mutual trade and commerce also put a lid on a huge potential of common good between the countries. While Pakistan has lost more because it has not been able to benefit from a vast and growing economy next door, India also has been denied a large and ready market in Pakistan.

The time has come to leave this legacy of hate and suspicion behind. While there are issues that will continue to divide us, there is much in common. There is a commonality of culture, cuisine and language, particularly between Pakistan and North India. There is a shared history that is not all of communal conflict. And, there are common challenges of poverty that call for a total focus on improving the human condition.

It is in this context that the initiative for peace, jointly undertaken by two leading media groups in Pakistan and India, is so welcome. The Jang group in Pakistan and the Times of India group in India have joined hands to promote peace between both countries.

This initiative is focused on mobilising popular pressure for peace on the establishment of both countries. The campaign for 'Aman ki Asha' is the first time in the chequered history of the subcontinent that major media groups in the two countries have decided to launch a concerted push for peace. The intention is not to suggest solutions. That is for the governments of the two countries to work out. This initiative seeks to create conducive environment and enabling conditions for a peace dialogue to succeed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ABDUL KHALIQ

Our heartiest congratulations to our member Mr. Khaliq and his family on being the runner up for Christmas light competitions arranged by the West Australian Newspaper. Their home in Langford was one of the three shortlisted homes for the award and was visited by a large number of visitors during the month of December.

NEW YEAR MESSAGES

May GOD bless you all with his blessings and May this year bring hope and happiness for you and your families. We have enjoyed a lot on PAWA functions especially Eid Picnic. It was pleasurable for us to join families on these events when we are away from our beloved and missing them a lot. PLEASE KNOW THAT PAWA HAS MY BEST APPRECIATIONS.

Mian Hafeez Ullah, PhD

Congratulations on this new year. May Allah make everything easy for you and may PAWA get progress. Have a happy new year.

Dr. Saeed Ahmad, PhD

'Happy New Year' is a traditional greeting which is a common way to pay good wishes to someone, regrettably, the world and especially my native land 'Pakistan' has been suffering by the worst terrorism at present. My heart goes out when I watch the brutal images of victims of terrorism in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq and occasionally in other parts of the world. I wish and pray to God for the safety of Pakistan and all other states and for the people wherever the terrorism is ruling at present. I wish my friends, colleagues and family members for their secure and safe lives, prosperous future and harmonious relationships in 2010.

Syed Atiq ul Hassan, JP,

May THIS NEW YEAR - 2010 brings blessing of GOD, peace and happiness to you and the family.

Brigadier Babar Mansoor Virk. Defence Advisor, High Commission for Pakistan

Wishing you all lots of Happiness, Success, Love n Good health Tariq Mirza. Public Relation Officer. Urdu Society of Australia

Australian Music and English Academy



Director - Dr Swarnamali Seneviratne

English Tuition

ENGLISH tuition All levels from primary including TEE & Tertiary by an experienced teacher & Ex- Head of English in a Senior High School WA with Double Masters in English and Linguistics.

Music Tuition



Dr Seneviratne with a young student at the keyboards



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