“When disasters hit, children are always among the most vulnerable”
October 2022

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Dear Kids! Assalam-o-Alaikum,
Happy Eid Milad-un-Nabi to you all. Hope you celebrate this great day with added joy and blessed fervour. 12 Rabiul Awal is really the most important day for the whole of mankind as on this day the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) was born. “Muhammad” (SAW) – a name, a stature, a character so inspiring and great that no words can articulate his vitality; a human being so perfect that words of praise fall short of expressing his persona. He is the light that mankind had been waiting for. At a time of darkness of ignorance, he came and spread the message of equality, righteousness and truthfulness. He declared, “There is no superiority of an Arab over a non-Arab, or of a non-Arab over an Arab, and no superiority of a White person over a Black person or of a Black person over a White person, except on the basis of personal piety and righteousness” (Last Sermon), and that “The most honourable amongst you is the one who cares the most for his deeds.” (Quran 49:13) These teachings of the Prophet (PBUH) are a source of light for us all; we should obey and follow with due diligence and persistence.

Dear Fellows!
This month’s edition of Hilal for Kids is significant for many reasons. Besides, Eid Milad-un-Nabi, we have death anniversary of Pakistan’s first Prime Minister Shaheed-e-Millat Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan who was assassinated on 16 October 1951, in Rawalpindi. As one of the most reliable companions of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he served throughout his life for the betterment of Muslims of subcontinent, struggled for separate independent homeland, and, after Pakistan came into being, worked day and night for the prosperity of Pakistan. He set the course of Pakistan’s foreign policy, its relations with neighbouring countries and strived to resolve the Kashmir dispute with India. His untimely demise turned the whole nation into gloom. He will be remembered for setting forth extraordinary examples of integrity and commitment.

Dear Friends!
Inside this edition, Hilal for Kids has brought, too, many other interesting and thought-provoking stories, articles and write-ups. “Taking Care of Disaster-Hit Children” is one such. You know, this year’s monsoon brought massive destruction and loss of life in different parts of Pakistan. In Balochistan, Sindh, KP and Punjab more than 33 million people got affected; 16 million innocent souls – kids and toddlers – suffered the most. More than 500 children lost their lives, while over 3 million children are exposed to malnutrition, waterborne diseases, displacement and snakebite. Their lives are at high risk, if they are not taken care of in the coming days and months. Taking care of the fellow children is prime responsibility of us all. How can we contribute to the national cause, tells the article you are going to read, on next pages. Climate change and our ecosystem’s disturbance needs to be addressed on war footing. Hilal for Kids is continuously dedicating its pages for spreading awareness regarding ‘Zero-Waste Management’ and adopting ‘Zero-Waste Lifestyle’. The upcoming T-20 World Cup is certainly a joyful event, but don’t forget the sufferings of fellow children who have lost their homes and their everything. You can dedicate to them a sapling today that will grow a tree tomorrow, in their remembrance. Won’t you?

Do get a snap when you plant a sapling, we’ll give it a space in the magazine next.

Farooq-uz-Zaman
It was our beloved Prophet’s birthday which we dearly call as “Eid Milad-un-Nabi”. My grandma had come to stay with us and under her meticulous care special preparations were carried out for Milad at our home. This revered day is considered as the third Eid, after the two Eids – Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha. Eid-ul-Fitr is celebrated to honour the end of revered month of Ramadan as well as the Revelation of Quran during the Night of Qadr, which usually falls on the 27th of the month of Ramadan. Eid-e-Milad is equally befittingly celebrated because the Greatest Man on Earth Globe, Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him, was born on this day, upon whom the Revelation of Quran was made. So, not only on the 12th of Rabbiul Awwal, but also during the entire third month of Islamic Calendar, the birth of the Prophet (PBUH) is celebrated and the day is commemorated with honour, admiration and reverence.

My grandma is a devout follower of the Prophet (PBUH). She is an avid reader and fond of reading books of the Prophet’s life. She recites naat (the poetry written in praise of the Prophet). She has memorized a number of Hadiths (Sayings of the Prophet PBUH), and quotes those Sayings during her conversations and motivational lectures during the home settings. She also teaches kids how to recite from the holy Quran.

We decorated our house with fairy lights. With me helped my cousins Noreen, Ayesha, Asma and Zubia. Within an hour, the sitting and living area of our home got packed with the guests. Covered with white sheets, the sitting arrangement was done on the floor by placing cushions everywhere. A sufficient number of copies of Holy Quran were placed on the tables in the middle of the rooms. And my mom, khale and catering hands were busy in the kitchen to prepare something sweet for the guests to serve during the intervals.

So, Milad Sharif began with honour and enthusiasm. Noreen with her sweet recitation from the Quran, set the mood of the event as the audience swayed in reverence. It was a sight to behold, vibrant colours, white and green dresses, bright and lovely faces – all gathered to praise and rejoice on the most auspicious day. Grandma sat right in the middle; she was twinkling like star in yellow-green attire. Mom and other ladies served everyone with cold drinks. The Mehfil-e-Milad carried on with salutations on the Prophet (PBUH). Hamd (praise to Allah) and Na’at (poetry attributed to Prophet’s honor) were presented by my cousins and girls from the neighbourhood with so melody and respect that it really mesmerized all those who attended.

Before the concluding dua, Ayesha took the microphone in hand and asked the guests to be attentive. She started reading a paper, which she herself wrote to highlight the exalted life of the most revered and celebrated man on the Earth Globe (Peace Be Upon Him). She said: “More than 1400 years ago, a baby boy was born in a noble tribe of Banu Hashem in Makkah. The exact date of the Rabbiul Awwal month of the moon-based Islamic calendar was 12th and the 22 April 571 AD of the sun-based European Calendar. The new-born’s grandfather, Abdul Mutallas, named him as “Muhammad”. His father Abdullah had died months before his birth, leaving him singly in
the care of his mother, Hazrat Amina. As per the Arab custom, he was sent to the outskirts of Makkah to get raised along a foster family by Hazrat Halima Sadiq. By the age of 6, his mother passed away. His grandfather took his guardianship in own hands, but he also died after two years.

Ayesha continued, “It was then Hazrat Abu Talib, his uncle and the father of his dearest and closest cousin Ali (RA), who took him into his guardianship. Muhammad, as young boy, grew up into the finest man under his protection and extraordinary care. With him, he travelled leading the caravans to Syria and Damascus and did wonderful business with so honesty, commitment and dedication that the trade between the Arab peninsula and foreign countries did flourish at a pace. It helped in building trust between the peoples. Seeing the young Arab’s unprecedented character, the most influential lady of Makkah, Hazrat Khadijatul Kubra first sent him on her own business expeditions, then decided to offer him to marry her as she was so impressed with his honesty and fairness.

Muhammad (PBUH) was then at the age of 25 and Khadija (RA) was 40 when both married. The marriage elevated his worldly and spiritual status. He also got time to think about the being of man, the purpose of man’s coming into this world, about the Oneness of God, and how good should work and peace prevail in that society. He found a place of solitude above in the nearby mountain top where Cave of Hira he used to sit in for hours and hours and meditate. It was then he was in his 40th year of age when the Archangel of God, Jibraeel, came down bearing the very First Revelation, giving him the good news that Muhammad (PBUH) was chosen by God as Allah’s Last Prophet and for the custodianship of the Book of God called Quran.”

Ayesha’s words were echoing in the hall: “Before Islam, people were deeply sunk in the darkness of ignorance. They were arrogant and boastful. They used to play gamble, practice usury, bury daughters alive, treat slaves worse than animals and worship idols. The Prophet (PBUH) started teaching them humility, honesty, goodness and respect. He not only insisted upon fair dealing in business but in fact practically demonstrated by setting his own personal example. This was the height of a character he displayed that he was titled as Sadiq and Ameen, which means the “Truthful and Trustworthy”.

The Last Messenger of Allah (PBUH) told the people of Makkah to worship only One God, and shun idol worshipping. However, he faced stiff resistance from them and endured increasing hardships to the extent that the people of Makkah restricted him and his very few followers’ movement into a valley named Shi’b Abi Talib. Moreover, the loss of his beloved wife, Hazrat Khadija and uncle Abu Talib left him devastated. He suffered the pain of being hurled out of Ta’if during a visit to convey them the message of Allah. Then when the Makkans plotted to get rid of him, he migrated to Madina. And started a new chapter of his triumphs.”

Ayesha captivated the crowd, she continued: “Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) did upbringing of the followers in an independent environment and instilled in them leadership qualities. He also established a sound economic base, did beneficial trade and maintained good ties with Jews and others. He taught tolerance but when wars were imposed he conducted battles and himself actively took part in them. Within a short span of 10 years, he conquered Makkah but declared general amnesty. In his 63 years of exalted life, he wore many hats. He was a just man, a citizen, ruler, strategist, philanthropist, a statesman and a devout Muslim and to achieve all this in a single lifetime is a miracle in itself.

While finishing, Ayesha concluded: Clouds shaded him, trees, stones and mountains bowed in respect to the Prophet (PBUH), who is titled by God as Rehmatul lil’A’lameen.
“Ahh... We have lost our home,” said the little Meena with tears rolling down her cheeks. Maryam, the eldest one, gazed around with heavy heart and wet eyes. There was muddy water around having loads of litter on its surface. All three siblings were sitting by the roadside. It was still raining and they had covered themselves with a plastic sheet. Their parents were out to fetch drinking water, food and tent from the Pakistan Army relief camp nearby.

Maryam’s eyes were set on the empty plastic bottle that was slightly moving up and down on the water surface. A thought popped up in her mind: “Are we like this scrap; useless, fractured and empty?” Then she herself answered: “No we aren’t. We haven’t lost the courage to deal with this mess.” she wiped her eyes while thinking positively.

“Oh God... we’ve lost everything; our Bhori (cow) and Chintoo (goat) too!” sobbed Meena’s twin brother, Shani. He was depressed as he so adored his goat but the flash floods took away everything in no time – their home, cattle, supplies, books – everything. His father could barely manage to save his family.

“No, we haven’t lost everything! As long as we are together and breathing, we still have hope.” Maryam replied in a firm voice.
“Are you serious...? Can’t you see we are left with nothing?” said 6-year-old Shani.
“Can’t you see, we still have our parents and siblings with?” she immediately replied.
“Hmmm... Let me tell this to my friends, they are so upset, grieved and frightened.” He started running barefooted towards the other children sitting by the roadside waiting for a help and relief to come.

Local and world TV channels were breaking the news of the most horrified flooding in Pakistan. The prevailing state of distress was the outcome of 3-5 times more rainfalls in the country. Since mid-June 2022, extreme rainfalls; 67 percent above the normal elicited the intense flooding in Pakistan’s history that washed away the entire villages and infrastructure in the particular regions leaving behind the trail of destructions and millions of children in need of humanitarian assistance. The federal and provincial governments called it national emergency by declaring over 70 districts ‘Calamity Hit’ mostly in the Balochistan and Sindh provinces as well as southern Punjab and parts of KPK.

The devastating floods that had hit Pakistan back in 2010 left behind massive destruction and so far those were being called as super floods. But unfortunately, this year’s floods have proved to be more intense and destructive in nature as compared to the 2010 super floods. Imagine the outrageous intensity of 2022 floods that the powerful deluges have created a 100-kilometer wide lake near Sindh, according to NASA’s satellite observatories. Floods across Pakistan have taken away roads, bridges, buildings, farms, river banks, trees, crops, cattle and what not. The unprecedented calamity’s aftereffects are expected to be even more devastating and challenging.

Impact of Disaster on Children and their Health
Physically healthy and mentally fit children simply mean healthy and shining future of a nation. Whenever sudden disasters – earthquake, flood or else – strike, children’s health suffers the most both physically and mentally. The most recurrent disaster has caused almost 90 percent of destruction from natural disasters all over the world.

- Children, the innocent souls, suffer first and the most as they are innocent, fragile and do require extra care.
- Children, especially toddlers, are more vulnerable to the hazardous materials and organisms in the environment. Toddlers while crawling try to chew everything they pick.
- A child’s nervous, immune and digestive system is exposed to more troubles because they
eat and drink more and breathe more air than grownups.
- The risk of starvation and health concerns increases when the children are cut off from basic care and essential supplies during the floods.
- Kids become more susceptible to waterborne diseases as shattered infrastructure increases the chances of inadequate sanitation and health facilities.
- Unfortunately, children from the poorest communities have to bear the maximum burden.

According to Abdullah Fadil, the UNICEF Representative to Pakistan, as and “when disasters hit, children are always among the most vulnerable.”

Relief operations are still being carried out by our army, navy, Frontier Constabulary and Levy besides local NGOs and organizations like “Al Khidmat Foundation”, Chheepa Trust and others, and the international agencies like the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), various groups of local volunteers and independent welfare organizations. The Armed Forces, the government and non-governmental organizations and international agencies are working day and night for providing rescue and relief assistance and on establishing medical and rehabilitation camps not only in the affected regions but also in the settled areas where they could be kept and settled temporarily.

They are also engaged in providing health-related awareness sessions for the suffering humanity, especially children, toddlers and new-born babies at the edge of waterborne and other infectious diseases. The friendly countries and overseas Pakistanis are very quickly sending help, donations and essential supplies, too. While the whole nation is extending help to provide safe drinking water, food, clothes, shoes, medicines and hygiene kits to the children and the affected families. In flood affected areas, more than 30% of water system damage is escalating the risk of outbreaks for the people living in open areas, drinking unsafe water, eating unhealthy food and prone to open defecation.

**Psychological Effects of the Disaster on Children**

Children in the affected areas face psychological and behavioural issues during and after the floods.
- The horrible experience of disaster boosts fears, concerns, phobias, sadness and negative thoughts in the kids leading to sleep disorders and nightmares.
- Children show agitation for emergency through irritable behaviour and stubbornness.
- Kids don’t find it easy to come out of shock and trauma especially when they feel that their upside down life is at risk.
- Shortage of food, loss of beloved toys, favourite personal items and lack of adequate facilities let children develop depression, anxiety, aggression and frustration.

Parents suffering from flood with their kids tend to experience the high level of anxiety too. For them the real task is to protect their kids from the emotional breakdown as well as from physical
problems.

Like Maryam’s family, majority of the flood victims has been hoping for relief. Loss of precious life, property damage, displacement and eruption of diseases is posing threat to the availability of healthy food, drinking water, shelter and social support. Children were really upset seeing the massive destruction of whole community caused by super floods. They all were in a state of shock.

“Gudu is so upset. His father is missing. So is Ayesha. She lost her mother and younger brother...” Shani mumbled while looking at the stars. They were unable to have sound sleep in the open area with no privacy.

“Hmmm... You must spend time with your friends and try to console them. It’s a very difficult time. Support from everyone matters a lot.” She replied while thinking how she and her friends can help to mark a positive impression on innocent minds; so the children at least can hope for healthy life and find the courage to fulfill their dreams and normal life yet again. She knew that facilitating others helps to decrease children’s sense of hopeless and helplessness.

The 9th Grader Maryam is a Girl Guide and Proctor in her school. She could understand that the exposure to unhealthy conditions wasn’t good for her and the fellow children. The massive destruction, loss of loved ones, untrustworthiness and unpredictability has triggered the psychological issues for children of all ages.

“We need to talk about what has happened, what needs to be done and how we can overcome our fears or concerns.” Finally, she came up with a plan to engage kids in productive activities and work on building up their emotional wellbeing and resilience.

"Climate Change and Its Disastrous Effects"

Pakistan has become one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change yet it contributes less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The super floods and cloud bursts are the result of the climate change. As per UNICEF’s Children’s Climate Risk Index (CCRI) Pakistan is ranked 14th out of 163 countries making it a “Climate Hotspot” and Pakistani children susceptible to extremely high risk caused by drastic impacts of the climate change. Poor Pakistani children facing climate crisis as well as environmental issues combined with children’s vulnerability due to the lack of essential services i.e. sanitation, proper healthcare and education.

Taking Care of Children and their Health During and After the Disaster

Extreme flooding in Pakistan has taken the life of more than 1,500 people including around 500 children. More than 33 million people, including 16 million children have been affected. Over 287,000 houses have been fully and 662,000 partially destroyed. Around 19,000 schools are devastated putting the education of almost 680,000 children at risk in areas already have poor literacy rate.

In addition to it, about 600 school buildings are being used to shelter children and families displaced by flood. More than 3 million children are exposed to malnutrition, waterborne diseases, displacement and drowning. Mosquitoes, snakes, spiders and other insects breed in stagnant water, which is an additional threat.

To protect children’s health, it is compulsory to take following steps:

• Keep the kids and their pets away from stagnant water.
• Ask children to avoid hazardous sites and floodwater as it carries bacteria and viruses.
• Parents must try to keep children clean as much as possible.
• Ensure the kids have healthy food and safe drinking water.
• Keep children engaged in productive activities in order to boost up their mental health.
• Don’t let the kids involved in cleaning activities.
• Don’t let them use the items that have absorbed flood water like paper, towels, pillows, cloth, cotton, etc.
• Let the kids express their feelings, concerns and fears without hesitation.
• Observe the change in kids’ behavior and
handle them accordingly, with patience.

- The wellbeing of children in rescue, relief and rehabilitation processes must be a priority.

Army and other organizations are aiming to provide support to children including lifesaving medical equipments, essential medicines, vaccines, cooking kits, safe drinking water, sanitation supplies, food and mosquito nets, etc. Cases of diarrhoea, malaria, stuffy nose, watery or itchy eyes, allergies and skin diseases have increased and already being treated at army medical centres in the flood affected areas. Schools are vital for both children’s future and their current wellbeing – they are cherished environments and offer routine and stability amidst chaos.

They all were residing in a hall room of a school building temporarily set as relief camp for flood victims. All the teenage girls and children were sitting on the floor making a large circle. In fact, a counselling session cum conference was in progress.

“We would not be able to live happily like before…”
“Wel cant go to our school.”
“I so miss my doll and Moti (pet dog).”
“How we will grow crops and vegetable?”
“Would we be able to study in our old school again?”

“Ahhhh... Our school is completely washed away…”
Maryam let them finish and once they done she explained: “Yes Insha’Allah! Recovery always takes time. Maybe couple of weeks or months but one day we will go to our old school. Our parents will grow crops, fruits, vegetables and you guys will play in your playground. Be hopeful and have faith. We still have a chance to gain education, knowledge, wisdom, training and skills…”

Maryam and her fellow girls were trying hard to help children to ward off grief and fear especially those who have experienced the death of a blood relation. There were many children who were down and upset over the loss of their home, pets, toys and missing friends.

The calamity has given them opportunity to play their role. By engaging gloomy children in funny and interesting activities she was teaching them the lesson to cope with sorrow and disappointment.

“You see everyone out there, cares for us. Allah is sending help to minimize our sufferings. What’s gone is gone. Just think about what you can gain... Guys you have 5 minutes, just think over what you will do first when we are back in our community…”

she gave them a task aiming to know their feelings and priorities.

Dear little friends! You see the dreadful flooding in the country has totally shaken the life of the fellow kids. They are in terrible conditions. Rebuilding homes, schools, roads, bridges and cleaning out the facilities and surroundings can take months or more. And it takes even longer for children to adjust and accept the new setup. Process of learning and ability to concentrate are often collapse for children after a calamity like flood. They are looking at us in this time of need. Please keep showing respect, support and love to the flood affected children.

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Humans! M. Faizan Hashmi

Amend the man sufficient,
Scorn and folly we are
Bedeck with relish, euphoric and cherish,
Blaze of hope so far
Thrilt it’s rays in perpetuity,
In heart it leaves a scar
So no one chide,
Scorn and folly we are
Instill with blooming faith,
Lavenders, lilac and a slice of tar
Folly, scorn all that but,
Essentially, human we are.

HILAL Kids
On the Death Anniversary of First Prime Minister of the Country

Liaquat Ali Khan’s Role in Creation of Pakistan  
Zumaira Qaisar

If Pakistan was lucky enough to have a leader like Muhammad Ali Jinnah, then indeed Quaid-i-Azam was lucky enough to have a companion like Liaquat Ali Khan, who sacrificed his everything – home, wealth and what not – even his life, for the sake of Pakistan. 16th of October is observed as the death anniversary of Pakistan’s first Prime Minister. He is remembered as the man of great integrity, intelligence and commitment.

Liaquat Ali Khan was a son of the Nawab of Karnal. He was born on 2 October 1896. His family was so rich that he himself owned 300 villages. His father Rustam Ali Khan enjoyed the title of Rukn-ud-Daula, Shamsher Jang and Nawab Bahadur. His mother, Mahmooda Begum, was well known for her philanthropic work and welfare services for the poor.

After schooling in native town, he joined the MAO College, Aligarh in 1913 wherefrom he graduated in 1918 in Political Science and LL.B. and married his cousin, Jehangira Begum, in 1918. His father died in 1919. In 1920 he went to England to get higher education at Exeter College, Oxford University, where he earned a Master’s degree in Law & Justice. He did Bar-at-Law from the Inner Temple in 1922. On return back in 1923, he started practicing law as an Advocate of the Lahore High Court. From here his political career started.

Hindu leaders asked him to join Congress, but he joined All India Muslim League, in 1923, under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah. In 1926, he was elected member of the United Provinces Legislative Council from the Muslim constituency of Muzaffarnagar. He remained a member of the UP Legislative Council until 1940, when he was elected to the Central Legislative Assembly. He took active part in legislative affairs. He attended the National Convention held at Calcutta to discuss the Nehru Report in December 1928. In December 1932, he married to Begum Ra’ana, an economist and educator. Liaquat Ali Khan is also credited for persuading Jinnah to return to India. Following the passage of the Pakistan Resolution in 1940, he assisted in campaigning for the creation of a separate state.

Both Liaquat and his wife played a vital role in the Pakistan Movement and the struggle for an independent homeland. In 1947, he became the first prime minister of Pakistan, a position that he held until his assassination on 16 October 1951 at Liaquat Bagh, Rawalpindi. He was given the titles of Quaid-e-Millat, and Shaheed-e-Millat. His last words were: “May God keep Pakistan safe”. He was buried with full state honor in Karachi, next to Mazar-e-Quaid, on October 17.

Liaquat Ali Khan was a brave and courageous leader. He signed the Liaquat-Nehru Pact in 1950, for improving relations and reduce tensions between the two countries. In May 1951, Liaquat visited the United States and set the course of Pakistan’s foreign policy towards closer ties with the West. An important event during his premiership was the establishment of the National Bank of Pakistan in November 1949, and the installation of a paper currency mill in Karachi.

Pakistan faced a number of difficulties like Hindu-Muslim riots and refugee problems and also setting up of an effective administrative system. He established the groundwork for foreign policy and took steps towards the formulation of a constitution. He presented the Objectives Resolution, which the house passed on 12 March 1949. During his tenure, India agreed to resolve the dispute of Kashmir in a peaceful manner through the efforts of the United Nations. According to this agreement a ceasefire was effected in Kashmir on January 1, 1949. It was decided that a free and impartial plebiscite would be held under the supervision of the UN.

The death of such a great leader at the very early years of Pakistan’s independence left a great void. He sacrificed his everything for Pakistan and for the wellbeing of the people of this newborn country. At the time of his death, when his body was taken for ablution, his undergarment was found torn; he was wearing only a shervani and not a gamees. Hats off to the Shaheed-e-Millat.
Pakistan Army Peacekeepers’ Commendable Job

Helping out the War-affected Children

Pakistan Army’s UN peacekeeping contingents deployed in various war-torn or troubled countries in Africa and elsewhere in the world have greatly contributed in bringing peace and restoring normalcy. But the most significant role the Pakistani peacekeepers have played there is their commendable job for helping out the affected children and young boys and girls who have often known nothing but war, and war-related tragedies like displacements, injuries and traumas throughout their lives. They have also suffered humiliation, abuse, violence, abduction and denial of access to humanitarian assistance. Pakistan Army’s personnel, wearing the UN’s blue uniform symbolizing the dedicated frontline warriors, have not only broken that cycle of violence of any kind, but also laid the foundations of durable peace in those regions.

Each and every personnel of all UN peacekeeping operations has the primary obligation of promoting and safeguarding the rights of children. Child protection is at the heart of peacekeeping because the armed conflicts primarily affect children. They are the main victims of wars. A number of girls and boys are either killed or maimed. They are also recruited and used as child soldiers or for sexual violence. They face abduction, and are denied access to relief, medical or legal aid or any kind of humanitarian assistance. Child students, male and female, are also the primary victims of violent or terror attacks on schools, hospitals, homes and other facilities. Displacement and no shelter or escape without finding a protective hiding place for those children is another issue, which the only UN peacekeepers, especially the Pakistani contingents, have provided them winning their great trust and reliance.

Realizing the gravity of the situation, the UN Security Council in its 1999 Resolution 1261 addressed the issue in order to ensure that the personnel involved in UN peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building activities have appropriate training on the protection, rights and welfare of children. The protection of child in conflict has since 2001 been included in the mandates of UN peacekeeping operations. Pakistan Army peacekeepers have therefore made tireless efforts to implement the UN’s child protection mandate, and helped release thousands of child soldiers, providing them vital technical support to legislative reforms, aimed at strengthening a national child protection system.

Pakistan Army’s peacekeeping contingents are working in South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Central Africa and other countries. They have not only rescued a number of children from the hands of violent troubling elements, and not only provided them with safety and security, relief and rehabilitation, but they have also brought them into the mainstream of the routine life in their respective areas. They have played the crucial role of ensuring their protection and integrating them across as active members of their respective societies. In South Sudan, for example, they have together with other peacekeepers provided training to and brought into mainstream hundreds of children from January 2018 to July 2019.

Faryal Khan
World population is currently 7.7 billion. It will continue to rise and is expected to grow to 8.5 billion in 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050, and 10.9 billion in 2100.

Over population is a critical issue because an over growing population makes already challenging issues increasingly difficult to solve; non-renewable energy resources are depleting, natural resources are in a crisis, climate change getting worse, gender gaps remain, pollution is extreme, and most of all, issues like food and water scarcity, lack of education, etc.

Children are not only born, but also live in unhealthy, and poor environments; newborns are not kept in a safe and clean vicinity, and with food and water shortage on the rise, they have little or no access to clean food and water.

As the children grow older, they are not provided with a healthy home environment. They get neglected, become victim of domestic violence, abuse, and child labor. To make things worse, these children are also robbed of their rights to basic education.

These augmenting population numbers also add an additional burden on the earth’s natural and non-renewable resources. We need to deal with pollution as the increasing pollution and greenhouse gases due to overuse of cars, factories, and carbon producing facilities have accelerated climate change!

Did we not face an extreme weather this year? Well, I don’t feel happy saying that this is just the beginning. This is not all. We’re facing other extremely concerning issues too. Covid is on the rise again, and governments are finding it extremely difficult to ensure an equal distribution and provision of vaccines.

Inflation has also become lethal, and little is being done to help those millions of parents struggling to feed their children. This will obviously have a ripple effect, as these poorly fed children will grow up to be under nourished and stunted.

The children of today are the adults and professionals of tomorrow, and do you really think these starved, uneducated, abused children will grow up to make a healthy society?

Of course not!

An increase in population is also causing an increase in these poorly addressed issues. People like us might be privileged and live blessed lives, but more than 70% of our population is suffering. Little by little makes a lot. These tiny actions and baby steps add up to be a lot! So please, come join us on this journey towards a healthier, more sustainable, safer, and cleaner life.
The 8th edition of 2022 T20 World Cup will be an exciting affair for all of us as it will witness some of the best talents from across the globe especially Pakistan which will bring out their best as far as performance is concerned.

ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2022 is scheduled to commence in Australia on October 16 with the group stage matches. The matches will be played in seven different cities of Australia in which around 16 teams from all over the world will take part including Pakistan, Australia, Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, South Africa, England, New Zealand, Afghanistan and West Indies. The Super 12 round will commence on October 22 and the final is set to take place on November 13 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Taking Care of Pets

Noor-ul-Ain Amer

The dog hopped around, ball in its mouth. It would rush off to one end of the garden, then dash off to the other, tail wagging a mile a minute. Javeria watched it run around fondly, playing with her fingers. “Hey, come here, bud.” The dog paused, looked back at her, then bounded off again. A small chuckle escaped her. Tired footsteps sounded behind her, but she didn’t turn around. There was only one person at home here who always sounded tired. “Hey Ali,” she greeted nonchalantly. “Hey.” “Weren’t you supposed to be going out with Maza?” Ali didn’t reply immediately, choosing to sit down beside his sister, each movement slow. “Oh, for the party preparation?” He shook his head ruefully. “I turned him down. Esha’s better at that stuff than me.”

Javeria looked at him again, pity in her eyes. “You’re good too. Your only problem is that you’re too scared of everything.” Ali deflated even more at that. “I don’t feel good at anything,” he mumbled. “You’re good at everything you put your mind to, and I still can’t figure out what to do for the class presentation.” Javeria didn’t know how to reply to that. An awkward silence ensued. At that moment, the dog came rushing towards them, and dropped its ball.
at Ali's feet, looking up at him expectantly with its tongue lolling out.

Ali picked the ball up, and threw it across the garden. At once, the dog bounded off after it, yapping excitedly. A small cheeping noise made Javeria turn around, and from across the garden, the dog perked its ears, alert. "What's that?" Javeria asked warily, looking at her twin.

A small smile formed on Ali's face as a small head peeked out from the pocket in the front of his jacket.

A tiny little chick poked its head out, looking around, cheeping again as it caught sight of Javeria. "Hey, look, she's mistaken you for me," grinned Ali, as the little chick, all fluffy and tiny, hopped out of the pocket and bounced towards Javeria. Holding out a hand, she scooped it up.

"Where on earth did you manage to find her?" Javeria trilled, wonder filling her eyes at the little baby. Ali shrugged. "I didn't," he said, nodding towards the dog, who had begun to approach them once more. "Shockjaw did. I was around, so he dropped her at my feet. I found her yesterday." "Well, why didn't you tell me?" Javeria exclaimed, stroking the chick with a finger.

"Well, I wasn't quite sure she was gonna make it, and I didn't know how you'd react as well." "And now you know she's gonna make it?" Ali smiled confidently. "I know she's gonna make it. I've been making her a little formula, see? So whenever she gets hungry, I feed her. Ten times a day, every two to three hours." Shockjaw dropped his ball, and came closer, sniffing the little chick. "I-I mean, it, well it, you know, m-might still not make it, she's really r-rather tiny, but-" "-but you're good at taking care of things, so I know she's gonna make it," Javeria cut in, and Ali stopped stammering, grinning.

"What else have you been doing for her?" Ali paused, thinking. "I've been keeping her all bundled up and warm, and I keep her on me at all times. She likes the company, I've noticed. You weren't home yesterday, it was just me and Mum, so I let her play in our room. I mean, it wasn't really playing, just kinda let her run around."

Shockjaw stopped sniffing, apparently satisfied. The little chick cheeped at him, trying to hop towards him. "Also, I haven't really been giving her water, cause she's too young, it'd hurt her more than it'd do her any good. Besides, the formula I've been giving her has all the stuff she needs anyways, so she doesn't really require water."

The little chick successfully hopped off of Javeria's hand, onto her leg, peeping happily as Ali scooped her up. "Other than that, it's really just this endless cycle of feeding and playing. She doesn't do much at this stage, you see? I just have to keep her occupied."

"You make it sound easy," Javeria laughed, putting her arm around her dog as he licked her happily. "I know what it's like to raise a pet. They're very difficult at this stage. But I think you've been managing really nice all on your own." Ali beamed, shyly ducking his head as he tuned to look at his little chick.

Javeria flicked him on the head suddenly, making him look up.

"What was that for?" He whined, rubbing his head with one hand. "Oi, you've already got something to present to the class!" Javeria cried out excitedly, motioning towards the chick. Ali looked down at the chick, who had begun to peck at his hand, trying to look for food. "I don't know," he replied hesitantly. "I mean, how do I just bring her to class and present on her?" "Oh, that's the easy part! Isn't animal welfare day coming up? October 4th? You can take her for a show and tell, and kinda raise awareness for that! Besides," she added quickly as Ali opened his mouth to argue, "the show and tell is still a week and a half away, so she'll have grown stronger and bigger by then anyways! Trust me, this'll be a really cool thing."

Ali looked down at the little chick, who had decided his finger was her new toy, and was repeatedly pecking at it. "So I take her, and then what?" "Tell your story. How you've been taking care of her, what you've been doing for her. Help them see what to do for a pet. Educate them. We have a local shelter here, right? Make people see why volunteering there is a nice hobby, a good way to educate yourself, and do something worthwhile."

Before Javeria was finished, the chick let out a little yawn, before trying to find the warmth of the pocket again. Ali guided her inside, letting her settle in. "Okay. I think I can manage that," he said after a little while. "But you're gonna help me. Okay?"

Javeria nodded, reaching her feet to pick the ball. At once, Shockjaw became alert, rushing after the ball as soon it was thrown. "Of course, I'll help you."
Areeb took his bag and walked out of home. He opened the car door and sat in it. His neighbor Raheel standing there greeted him. He reciprocated and then told: “I’m going to UAE for a week. I hope you will pray for my business to flourish.”

“Oh Areeb, it’s good that you are developing a business, come back successful, I pray.”

It was 10 O’clock two hours before midnight. Mrs. Raheel was looking out of room window and got surprised to see Areeb’s house lights were on. Moments later she heard the sound of vacuum cleaner. She also saw someone walking behind the curtains. She wondered who might be there, or might be Mr. Raheel was back.

She told her husband who leaned forward and found nothing but a complete silence. A week had passed, and today Areeb had to return. It was 5 O’clock in the evening. Mrs. Raheel was sitting in her garden. She was, of course, a good neighbor. She had made some biscuits that she wanted to give to Mr. Areeb on his return because he was not married yet. Again she noticed a light was on in his house, and again a sound of vacuum running she heard. Then she found that someone was fixing things in her neighbor’s house. She again asked her husband, something was wrong. He got up and went to ring the doorbell. Nobody opened. They suspected that someone had broken into Areeb’s house. Due to this suspicion, they called the police.

When the police arrived, the lights were off and the voices had stopped. Police inquired about Mr. Areeb, took his number and called him. He was about to reach. On his arrival, he saw the police had searched the whole house. It was found to be completely clean, everything was in place. Police asked him if there was anything missing? He replied that everything was in place. “Then who was there moving with sound of vacuum”, Mrs Raheel asked. Areeb said, “In fact, I keep a robot at my house who cooks food, cleans the kitchen and takes care of my house.” They were talking when the robot entered with coffee in its hands to serve the guests.

“Areeb, did you just instruct him to offer us coffee?” They asked. “No, I instructed him while I was on my way. I can send him signals from mobile application asking him to clean the house and offer coffee, etc.” The cops returned happily, saying: “Mrs. Raheel, now you must be satisfied.” She thanked them and smiled. Areeb told Mr and Mrs Raheel that it was a digital robot that works according to the IoT. Areeb thanked them for taking care of him and his house. ☕️
On 6th September, Amna’s school had arranged a phenomenal function in connection with Pakistan’s Defence & Martyrs Day. The students were excited to hear because their teacher had announced that many of the students would also be performing on stage. While, the teacher was giving them guidelines about their dressing as well as decoration of the stage, one of the students, Amna, loudly asked: “Mam! Can we take our mobile phones with us, during the function?” Amna is very fond of using her mobile phone. It is like her hobby to take snaps or make short videos of the important events. The class teacher listened to her question and politely refused: “No! You can’t use a mobile phone during the function. In fact, nobody can use it.” She loudly said in the classroom.

Finally, the function day arrived. Students were clad in traditional dresses with their faces glowing with enthusiasm. Amna looked confused because, not willingly though, she brought with her the mobile phone without taking care of the clear instructions. Some of her fellow students got surprised to see her using mobile phone, while others enjoyed taking selfies with her, before even the function started. However, Amna requested her friends not to tell that to the teacher. Apparently all kept quiet while Amna, with her mobile on silent mode, sneakily started taking snaps during the function.

As the function ended and the students got back to the class, Amna boastfully took her mobile out in the open and started seeing what she had captured. When she played a video clip without realizing that its voice volume was high, her teacher noticed the noise. “Is there something wrong in the class?” Wasn’t it a noise as if somebody playing the mobile video app?” she asked. The teacher started rounding the class to search for the student using a mobile phone. Amna, while seeing the teacher coming towards her, tried to hide it in the pocket but in confusion the mobile dropped from her hands on the floor. The teacher got shocked, she took Amna to Principal’s office who called her parents for explanation. This had not only made Amna confused, but also she realized her mistake. She felt sorry and expressed her shame before the Principal and her parents. There, she promised that she would never do it again.

So, the moral of this real story is: using mobile phone isn’t bad, but its excessive use can create trouble for you and embarrassment for parents and teachers.
Once upon a time, there was a river in a dense forest of Siberia. Where there a cunning crocodile lived. Across the river, there were many animals lived happily but whenever they came to drink water from the river, he always hurt them even he was full or without any reason.

All the animals were afraid of the cunning crocodile but there was only one river in the dense forest to drink water. So there was no way to escape. Animals decided to complain the king of the jungle. They went to the king and told all about the problem. King asked about the witnesses. Unfortunately, because of the fear of crocodile, no one was ready to be a witness.

King said, “I cannot do anything without any witness.” One fox told all the story to the cunning crocodile. Suddenly, the incidents of hunting and hurting were raised. All the animals were very disappointed and disturbed. One day, a Swan came from another town. He told that there was another river nearby the forest next to the jungle. All the coward animals decided to go there to drink water. The problem was to cross the river because in the middle of the river there was a cunning crocodile.

Swan told them about the meadow side of the river. Whenever, they tried to cross the river either from the side of meadows one of the animals got hurt. One of the goats was feeling very bad. She got her courage and went to the king and told all about the cunning crocodile and also told that she was ready to testimony. When all the other animals heard that they also got their courage and were ready to be witnesses. When fox saw all this unity, she thought it was better to be quiet.

King called the crocodile and asked all about the charges. Cunning crocodile was all alone, there was nothing to say. All the charges were borne out. The crocodile was found guilty and the king decided to send him into exile. All the animals were happy and lived happily thereafter.

God helps those who help themselves.
Marconi Himself Installed Radio Peshawar

Radio Pakistan Peshawar has a very interesting story. Very few know that this station was installed by none else but Marconi the inventor of Radio himself. Back in early 1930s, years before Pakistan came into existence, NWFP’s renowned politician Abdul Qayyum Khan went to London during the Round Table Conference. He personally met Marconi and requested him to donate one for this area. Marconi not only gifted a transmitter but also arrived in Peshawar to install it himself. Governor Rallop Griffith inaugurated it. On 16 July 1942, Radio Peshawar was shifted to a new building with 10 KW transmitter.

The first station in-charge was Muhammad Aslam Khan Khattak who became Governor years after Pakistan came into being. He had a talent for drama. Sajjad Sarwar Niazi made a name in music and is also the father of famous singers Naheed Niazi and Najma Niazi was the first director. One of the famous plays from those days was The Bloody Cup, written by Aslam Khattak in English and translated into Pashto for the Radio. The long history of Peshawar Radio is filled with many famous names who were associated with it. They include Kaifi Dev, Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi, Mohsin Ehsan, Pitras Bukhari, Khatir Ghaznavi, Farigh Bukhari, Majeed Mufti and many others who started his career here in early forties.

Marconi’s transmitter was still in operation until a few decades back.

What Makes You Ugly?

“Hey you, the ugly princess! Turn around, look at me.” The king ordered the princess.

“Awww, me?? I’m not ugly.” The princess got shocked upon hearing those remarks.

“Yes you are the ugliest one.” The king said, angrily.

“Don’t you know I’m the most beautiful princess in this kingdom?” she proudly said.

“Ugh! Don’t you know your heart is full of greed and your mind is a devil’s place? Don’t you know all the time you use others for your own benefits? Therefore, you are ugly, rather the ugliest princess.” The king counted her bad manners on his fingers.

She got tears in her eyes. “I wish you die so this world is free from such an ugly pretty princess.” The king made an ill wish for her.

The princess fell down on the floor. “Am I ugly? Is my heart, mind and soul dirty?” she asked herself. She looked at herself, she saw her beauty and got amazed. But an inner voice of her said that the king was right. When she realized the truth of king’s words, she loudly cried and said: “No, I’m not ugly, I just forgot the right path.” she admitted her own fault.