

Article

Institutional Decay, Absence of Accountability احتساب in

Pakistan

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INSTITUTIONS are made to **strengthen** مضبوط بنانے the state as per their **assigned** تفویض کردہ role and **mandate** فرمان. Strengthening the state includes; facilitation in the functioning of the state and **aiding** مدد کرنا the **masses** عوام and ensure its own economic survival while contributing towards national economy.

In Pakistan, there are many national institutions, companies and departments which over the years have proved as burden over the state rather becoming **beneficial** فائدہ مند.

Their performances have been **contradictory** متضادم to their assigned mandate and desired goals. Resultantly, the state of Pakistan suffered **on account of** بوجہ بہ سبب، **incurring** خرچ huge finances for the sustenance بقاء of these institutions at the cost of many other essential national developmental projects and economic development of the state.

For decades now, Pakistan's national airline (PIA), Pakistan Railways and Pakistan Steel Mills have been a huge burden

on the national economy and **exchequer** خزانے of the state.

These were very beneficial departments of Pakistan until the decade of 1980s. **Thereafter** بعد کے اس there have been gradual slow-down and then **obliteration** ہونا یا ختم to the current level.

There have been similar results of many other governmental departments, institutions and organizations which **pose** لاحقہ great economic burden on the national economy since their performances fall much below the expectations.

The **down-fall** تباہی، زوال of **abovementioned** مذکورہ بالا departments, companies and national institutions can be **attributed** منسوب to factors like; a) **preferring** ترجیح دینا individual interests over national interests, b) systematic corruption and **nepotism** اقربا پروری and c) lack of **accountability** احتساب and good governance.

Since the decade of 1990, there have been involvements of individuals, few families and political **elites** اشرافیہ with vested interests in **derailing** یعنی بھٹکانا and **damaging the productivity** پیداوار of these national institutions and organizations. Through illegal ways, these individuals and elites **manipulated** کی the management of these

institutions through illegal political **recruitment** بھرتی and **nepotism** انتظامی حمایت کی عزیزوں کی which caused **managerial** انتظامی issues, poor productivity and financial corruption to institutions and the state.

For a long-time there has been no **know-how** of their ill-practices and damages they caused to national **exchequer** خزانہ.

Later, in 1999, **National Accountability Bureau (NAB)** was establishing to **trace** سراغ لگانا the massive corruption and those involved into it. NAB was established to “deal with corruption prevention, raise public awareness, and **enforce** نافذ یا لاگو کرنا of anti-corruption measures.

” Unfortunately, there have been no **worthwhile** قابل قدر achievements of this national institution in the past.

Rather, it has widely become a white elephant or else a centre of corruption in itself and also used as a tool for political **victimization** انتقام of the **opponents** مخالفین.

In last over four years there was a debate about **accountability** احتساب of the **former** سابقہ **ruling** حکمران families of Pakistan (now in power) and those **elites** اشرافیہ، who earned huge money through illegal means. Nothing could be proved in practical terms, which raised many questions about the NAB.

The biggest question is; either there is an **in-built** پیدائشی یا fault in the mandate of NAB or else there is lack of will to **implement** نافذ کرنا its legal **obligation** ذمہ داری through a neutral **mechanism** طریقہ کار.

This is **indicative** اشارہ، نشاندهی، from fact that, the tall promises of the previous governments and NAB about recovery of the **ill-gotten** ناجائز طریقے سے حاصل money from the former ruling class since nothing has been added into the national treasure of Pakistan except arrests and **detentions** حراست of opponents and later their release.

Rather deciding the previous issues of accountability thousands of new cases and new scandals appeared in the electronic and press media until NAB becoming **dysfunctional** غیر فعال in July 2022.

There were many charges and scandals against the former Chairman of the NAB. The judicial system of Pakistan is equally **tainted** داغدار and compromised to the level of dissatisfaction of masses.

Every day, Pakistani masses helplessly **witnesses** دیکھتے ہیں all these on television channels with **allegations** الزامات and counter allegations without any **punitive** متعلق سزا سے actions against wrongdoers.

NAB's failure to recover the ill-gotten money has enabled the already **tainted** داغدار lot to hit back and blame other institutions, Government and the state, creating a **chaos** افراتفری and questioning the justice system.

The **studious** والے minds **contemplate** غور کرتے ہیں the entire happening as a stage-managed drama for **diversion** ہٹانا of people's attention and to pass the time without any progressive ending.

This stage-managed drama is being repeated with new faces and through new strategies without a realization that, it has damaging effects on; state, society, economy and above all the **prevailing** موجودہ political system of Pakistan.

Each government would like to pass its five years tenure مدت while **accusing** دینا الزام the earlier one and doing nothing by itself.

Irrespective نظر قطع of their political **affiliations** وابستگی, the masses of Pakistan are rapidly losing trust on the current political system, accountability and justice system.

The repeated trends of; bad governance, corruption, lack of **meritocracy** حکمرانی کی میرٹ کی, injustice, **politicization** سیاسی نوعیت of accountability process and un-affordable price **hike** اضافہ (**inflation** مہنگائی) have created **chaos** فساد and a

sense of **insecurity** عدم تحفظ among the masses of Pakistan.

Indeed, a stage has reached where majority of the masses find it hard and difficult to meet their basic and essential **necessities** ضروریات.

Leaving aside the imported goods, the masses find it difficult to purchase the home-grown national agricultural product of Pakistan.

Then, away from **lavish** شاپانہ way of living, the basic necessities of life are not available to common people at an **unaffordable** ناقابلِ استطاعت price.

The institutional decay, lack of basic justice and absence of an effective system of accountability in Pakistan has created **uncertainty** غیر یقینی صورتحال among the masses and **chaotic** situation in the country.

This serial happening in the country at the hands of **successive** کے بعد دیگرے آنے والے **an irony** ستم indeed.

The worst part of this practice is that rulers and elite class still has no realization as how the state and its institutions are being **ruined** تباہ through a **systematic** منظم process.

The government must **concentrate** دینا on the essentials

issues of governance, justice, **efficient** قابل موثر، economic management and availability of basic necessities of life at **affordable** سستی price.

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Delaying Doha plans

Editorial

WHEN Doha announced its **intention** ارادہ to spend \$3bn in different commercial and investment sectors of Pakistan around a month ago to support this country's **teetering** گرتی، economy, no one expected the government here to immediately **implement** نافذ کرنا the actions needed to facilitate the Qatari plans. Yet, it was largely **assumed** فرض کیا that the work that was started before the prime minister's Doha visit to remove **impediments** رکاوٹیں to the Qatari plan to develop a new RLNG (re- liquified natural gas) terminal and

buy two RLNG-powered generation plants would make rapid progress on fast-tracking the promised investments. However, a report in this paper suggests that bureaucratic red tape and vested ذاتی interests are stalling any روک رہے ہیں meaningful headway on those reforms اصلاحات. This is in spite of the urgency with which Pakistan needs foreign loans and non-debt-creating investments to tackle نمٹنا its balance-of-payments troubles. Though Qatar did not give any time frame for its investments, the gas-rich state is expected to spend much of the money on the LNG infrastructure project and the purchase of power plants during the current fiscal سرمایہ to support Islamabad's efforts to double its foreign exchange reserves to \$16bn under the IMF's bailout مالی معاونت programme.

Any other country dealing with a serious economic turmoil بحران amid دوران a balance-of-payments crisis and falling foreign currency reserves would have moved swiftly تیزی سے to push reforms forward and remove the barriers رکاوٹیں to such a large investment in a sector on which depends the nation's energy security. The lack of progress on reforms and policy decisions approved by the federal cabinet shows that the gas sector bureaucracy is more concerned فکر مند about its own interests than those of the country. It goes without saying that the delay in the implementation نفاذ of عمل درآمد reforms required to facilitate long-term foreign investment will not only jeopardise خطرے میں ڈالنا Qatari plans in the gas sector but in other areas as well. Saudi Arabia and the UAE

may also rethink their recently announced decisions to invest \$1bn each in Pakistan if we **continue to drag** **گھسیٹتے رہیں** our feet on important policy reforms meant to ease the way of foreign investors.

know-how:

knowledge of how to do something smoothly and efficiently :
EXPERTISE or practical knowledge and ability

The National Accountability Bureau (Urdu: **احتساب قومی**)
abbreviated **بیورو** **NAB**) is an autonomous and constitutionally established federal institution responsible to build efforts against corruption and prepare critical national economic intelligence assessments against economic terrorism for the Government of Pakistan.[1] It is headed by Aftab Sultan as its chairman.

White-elephant

something that is expensive, or that costs a lot of money to keep in good condition, but that has no useful purpose and is no longer wanted:

She believes the development may become a white elephant if

Fast-tracking in project management refers to a method where tasks that would ordinarily be completed in sequential order are instead completed concurrently.

Red tape is an idiom referring to regulations or conformity to formal rules or standards which are claimed to be excessive, rigid or redundant, or to bureaucracy claimed to hinder or prevent action or decision-making. It is usually applied to governments, corporations, and other large organizations.

☒ **Non-debt** creating; capital receipts refer to those receipts of the government which lead to a decrease in assets, and not an increase in liabilities. For instance, disinvestment is a non-debt creating capital receipt.

In international economics, the **balance of payments** of a country is the difference between all money flowing into the country in a particular period of time and the outflow of money to the rest of the world.

LNG. Liquefied natural gas is natural gas that has been cooled down to liquid form for ease and safety of non-

pressurized storage or transport. It takes up about 600/1th the volume of natural gas in the gaseous state. LNG is odorless, colorless, non-toxic and non- corrosive.

Foreign Exchange Reserves are cash and other reserve assets such as gold held by a central bank or other monetary authority that are primarily available to balance payments of the country, influence the foreign exchange rate of its currency, and to maintain confidence in financial markets.

☒ A **bailout** is when the government gives financial support to rescue a company that is in financial trouble and possibly at risk for bankruptcy. The bailout enables the survival of the company.

Today's words Synonyms

sustenance (noun): nourishment; support; maintenance.

obliteration (noun): eradication; destruction; elimination.

nepotism (noun): favouritism; bias; partiality.

punitive (adjective): penal; disciplinary; corrective.

lavish (adjective): sumptuous; luxurious; costly.

jeopardize(verb): threaten; endanger; imperil.

inadvertent (adjective): unintentional; unintended; accidental.

egregious (adjective): shocking; appalling; horrific.

perilous(adjective): Dangerous; hazardous;

Today's Vocabulary and their Use

Lavishly شایانہ طریقے سے

members of the band spent lavishly on their families.

jeopardize ڈالنا میں خطرے : a devaluation of the dollar would jeopardize New York's position as a financial centre.

teeter گھولنا یا گرنا : she teetered after him in her high-heeled sandals.

impediment رکاوٹ : a serious impediment to scientific progress.