

Source: The Frontier post

Opinion title: Iran Nuclear deal

Writer: Ben Armbruster

Washington foreign policy circles heated up a bit in recent weeks with rampant روز بروز بڑھتی ہوئی، بڑے پیمانے پر speculation قیاس آرائیوں that the United States and Iran were on the verge کنارے of agreeing to terms on reviving بحال کرنا the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear accord معاہدے that Donald Trump واپس لے withdrew from in 2018.

While the mania has dialed down شدت کم کرنا a bit as both sides appear farther apart than it seems they were just over a week ago, it's worth noting that the frenzy جنون، دیوانہ was created solely طور پر by those who oppose Washington's return to the JCPOA. And by "fr-enzy" I'm referring to a total barrage of lies, half-truths,

misdirections گمراہ کرنا, misleading claims, **myth** وہمی باتیں
peddling بھیجنا , dishonesty, distortion, **deception** فریب,
fabrication من گھڑت and even a little bit of **slander** بہتان.

Iran hawks have to lie about the **JCPOA** because they know it's unpopular, if even a bit **taboo** ممنوع, to be completely up front about their preferred course of action: war to bring about regime change or collapse. The roots of this **dynamic** متحرک lie in two competing visions for U.S. policy toward Iran.

While JCPOA **proponents** حامیوں believe that the regime in Tehran is bad and that Iranians would be better off with a more democratic one that doesn't **threaten** دھمکی دینا to destroy its neighbors and respects human rights, generally their preferred method for achieving that end is more of a long game which includes **chipping away** at a key pillar of the Islamic Republic – anti-Americanism – and helping to create the conditions that would facilitate change by Iranians themselves.

Hawks, however, want regime change now, and the nuclear weapons issue provides the best **pretext** بہانہ for justifying the war they need to achieve that end. Therefore,

the reason they're so **hysterical** پراسرار یا پاگل about the revival of the Iran nuclear deal is because they know it works in **preventing** روکنے Iran from developing a nuclear weapon and thus avoiding their war.

This also explains why Iran hawks have no **viable** قابل عمل **alternative** متبادل to the JCPOA and their criticisms of it boil down to outcomes that were never achievable even under the most favorable **diplomatic** سفارتی **circumstances** حالات.

All that said, here's a **sampling** نمونہ of the **absurdities** بیہودہ JCPOA opponents have thrown out in recent weeks:

They've claimed that the Biden administration is giving Iran billions of dollars – perhaps even a trillion! – which will be then used to kill you. But of course President Biden isn't handing Tehran a check for \$500 billion in U.S. taxpayer money. What's really happening here is just that Iran will be allowed to sell things again – like oil – without the threat of **sanctions** پابندیوں, and people outside Iran will pay for those things without the threat of sanctions.

When Iran hawks have tried to **tackle** کے نمٹنے the

JCPOA's substance, there's hardly ever a discussion of what it actually does – like the **myriad** ہزاروں ways it prevents Iran from building a nuclear weapon as long as the deal is in place. Instead they have focused on what it doesn't do – the **aforementioned** مذکورہ بالا unachievable outcomes – like **curbing** روکنے کو Iran's missile program and its support for its regional allies or ... **overthrow** کا تختہ الٹنے the regime.

The reason it doesn't do any of those things is because it was never intended to. The JCPOA is and always has been narrowly focused on one issue: blocking Iran's **pathway** راستہ to a nuclear weapon. That's it. Many experts argue that the deal can then provide a basis on which good faith negotiations can take place to address these other difficult issues.

There's also a **critique** تنقید of the deal that, at least on the surface, sounds as if it's grounded in some kind of **legitimate** جائز appraisal اندازہ، تخمینہ، that several key **provisions** شرائط of the JCPOA will “sunset” or expire soon.

This is actually true. But, of course, JCPOA opponents then use that truth to suggest yet another lie that the

entire deal sunsets in the near future. The key follow-on point to this is that there are also many important provisions of the agreement that do not sunset – like establishing an estimated six-month timeline that Iran would need to develop the nuclear fuel needed for one bomb should it choose to, and **reimposing** دوباره نافذ کرنا a constant and comprehensive monitoring of all its nuclear-related facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

This sunset criticism is also particularly **galling** پریشان کن , because with regards to the policy that JCPOA opponents prefer, i.e. the one that Trump **implemented** لاگو کیا and is currently **ongoing** جاری, the sun has already set, as one National Security Council official recently put it. In other words, as it stands right now, and because of Trump's withdrawal from the deal in 2018, there is nothing preventing Iran from moving closer to a nuclear bomb.

There are many other **outlandish** عجیب و غریب claims about the JCPOA that are almost too **ridiculous** مضحکہ خیز to address, such as the charge that President Biden “intends to give a nuclear **arsenal** ہتھیار to Iran” or that he is “practically building a nuclear weapon for them,” and that

Iran will “be allowed to **assassinate** کرنے قتل former US officials,” or that “thousands of people will die,” or that it’s “more dangerous than the **Cuban Missile Crisis**.” Seriously, these are actual quotes from prominent deal **critics** ناقدین.

Another **whopper** بڑا جھوٹ is the one where they actually blame President Biden for Iran advancing its program and **amassing** جمع ڈھیر nuclear material beyond the JCPOA’s limits, as if Trump, acting on their **urgings** تاکید, never pulled out of the deal in the first place. Trump’s move, of course, handed Iran the pretext to then advance its program to the point where most experts believe it will have enough highly **enriched** مال مال uranium to produce a bomb within just a few weeks. Iran hawks don’t care about the **hypocrisy** منافقت of blaming Biden for the outcome of their own policy **preference** ترجیح. They just need a reason to start a war.

These are merely just a few of the dozens if not hundreds of false and misleading statements that have been or will be made about the JCPOA since this debate began. (Groups like **NIAC** and **J Street** have also addressed the most serious of them)

It is an out-of-control **firehose** of lies that is meant to **obscure** واضح غیر the fact that the Iran nuclear deal is not only a great deal, but also one that will play a big role in **averting** میں روکنے another costly, devastating war in the Middle East, which is exactly what most, if not all, JCPOA opponents want.

Source:Dawn

Opinion title: Reform,Relief, Resilienc

Writer:Ali Tauqeer Shikh

DISASTER relief is not a stand-alone operation. It cannot be **effective** موثر unless clearly designed and **aligned** ہم آہنگ with reforms and reconstruction needed for resilience. Instead of rediscovering and **reinventing** دوبارہ ایجاد کرنا our system weaknesses anew after every disaster, the country should have in place a compass or a framework to guide our recovery and rebuilding efforts. This can be developed now, based on real-life lessons from the 2022 floods and tested and finalised during the next disaster, whenever it visits us.

The most important lesson from the 2005 earthquake and

the 2010 super floods is that the institutions and systems needed for emergency and relief **assistance** مدد are so weak – in some **instances** صورتوں non-existent – that relief operations consume and overwhelm all higher **tiers** درجوں of governance. They drag along all civil and military authorities at the federal and provincial levels who may not understand each other's mandates and duplicate **competencies** صلاحیتیں. VIP visits and helicopter rides have become a typical policy tool to **accelerate** تیز کرنا emergency relief and show concern and support.

In disaster situations, what is urgent often **distracts** توجہ policy leaders from thinking about important, system-level **interventions** مداخلت. System reforms also have an urgency and are critically important for both relief effectiveness and long-term resilient development. Their absence locks disaster victims further into **vulnerability** خطرے کا سامنا. This is an **opportune** مناسب time for Pakistan to attend to reform and resilience needs while still undertaking relief and humanitarian activities.

Pakistan has over the years developed an **elaborate** وسیع ecosystem of national- and provincial-level institutions,

while district-level institutions await their turn. Pakistan's disaster relief policy is governed by a guiding principle – that it is the government's responsibility to extend support to all poor victims of a disaster. **Fiscal space** has **shrunk** سکوڑنا but successive governments have always **honoured** احترام کیا ہے this principle to the extent possible.

This broad policy commitment has, however, not been clearly **articulated** بیان or **operationalised** شروع. Our response to disasters has therefore remained **ad hoc**. There are four key institutional and policy barriers that need to be addressed:

Our response to disasters has so far remained ad hoc.

First, while climate change is a federal subject, floods and several other extreme events fall in the provincial **sphere** دائرہ of responsibilities. Institutional roles and responsibilities are sometimes unclear between local, provincial and federal level entities. The standards of **eligibility** اہلیت of federal support have not been fully defined by the government. The **threshold** حد دہلیز یا points that specify at what junction federal institutions would get involved in a local or provincial disaster are not clear.

Second, there are no data sets or clearly **designated** نامزد institutions for various types of climate disasters to **bridge** ختم the emergency-development **continuum** تسلسل.

All we have is household income data maintained by the Benazir Income Support Programme. **BISP** does not have any vulnerability maps nor has it collected data from beneficiary households for disaster vulnerabilities – understandably so because its mandate is limited to income support to people living below the poverty line. Since BISP also does not maintain any information on climate disasters faced by its **beneficiaries** فائدہ اٹھانے والوں or on extreme events occurring in its areas of operation, it can only act as a post office and **disburse** تقسیم کریں equal or flat amounts without independent damage **assessments** جائزوں and verifications.

National and provincial disaster management authorities or other departments do not provide any **yardstick** پیمانہ to determine the level of support needed for each disaster category. Further, the government has not created specialised institutions or **drawdown** واپسی کی facilities, nor has it developed standard implementation procedures across the provinces, nor reinforced capacities to build

stockpiles, nor developed SOPs for speedier procurement for disaster without compromising transparency and competitiveness.

Third, there are no financing mechanisms in place for disaster management. Contingency and emergency funds are not embedded in budgets that could be accessed independent of high-level decision-making forums. In fact, early attempts to earmark a small percentage of budgets for national and provincial disaster management authorities have been discontinued. Instead of ongoing development projects for cash disbursements, it is time Pakistan created catastrophe funds and initiated risk transfer and insurance systems by prioritising key policy objectives and identifying in advance post-disaster spending priorities.

Fourth, and most critically, is the absence of a disaster-recovery framework that serves as a building block for reconstruction and resilience. Pakistan's disaster preparedness journey started in 2005 when it committed to the Hyogo Framework for Action. It

coincided with that year's tragic earthquake upcountry. The **HFA** was a blueprint for Pakistan's disaster-risk reduction efforts and shaped the policy direction of our newly created institutions. But Pakistan's **underlying** بنیادی disaster-risk drivers remained strong. Sufficient institutional, **legislative** قانون ساز and policy frameworks did not exist or were not sufficiently strong to integrate disaster-risk reduction in policy planning.

The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** also had to come to grips with the 18th Amendment and the National Climate Change Policy in 2013 and a new humanitarian-development architecture based on three agreements with the Paris Agreement, SDGs, and the **Sendia Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)**. The challenge now was to design and operationalise instruments that supported and integrated these three tracks. Investments in disaster-risk reduction became a **precursor** پیش خیمہ to climate-resilient development.

The **NDMA** committed in **SFDRR** that Pakistan would **embark** شروع on a seven-year journey of yearly targets from 2016 to 2022. The SFDRR target for 2022, for example, is to "increase the availability of and access to

multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster-risk information and assessment to people”. It is an ongoing target for 2030 and an extremely important entry point for Pakistan to engage with the global community to support the former’s reconstruction or **reparation** مرمت needs after floods. SFDRR Priority 4 focuses on ‘**build-back-better**’ (BBB) in the post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction for the restoration of physical infrastructure and societal systems, and to revise **livelihoods** معیار زندگی, the economy and environment.

The world has moved from **BBB** to what Pakistan needs most – building back stronger, faster and **inclusively** جامع طور پر. The 2022 floods offer an opportunity for relief operations to serve as a building block for reconstruction and resilience. Initiating the development of a framework for recovery and reconstruction can help generate data and build an economic case for loss and damage, an agenda point of the next climate summit later this year.

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Source:Dawn

Article title: Politics of Gifts

AFTER a year spent **deflecting** questions from the **ٹالتے ہوئے** media and **stonewalling** **پتھر مارنا** the authorities, there is some light in the **Toshakhana** case. On Wednesday, PTI chief Imran Khan submitted a reply to the Election Commission of Pakistan wherein he **conceded** **کیا تسلیم** he had sold at least four **precious** **قیمتی** gifts he had received while he was prime minister. According to him, he had **procured** **خریداری کی** the items from the state treasury on payment of Rs21.56m and their sale had **fetches** **حاصل کر لیا** him around Rs58m. As per Toshakhana rules, any gift assessed to be worth less than Rs30,000 can be **retained** **برقرار رکھنا** without any payment to the **exchequer** **خزانے**. The former premier in his response to the ECP maintained that from July 2018 till Dec 31, 2021 he received a total of 58 gifts, out of which he paid for 14. Mr Khan's lawyer has **urged** **پر زور دیا** the ECP bench to **quash** **ختم کرنا** the case on grounds of it being based on

“political motives”.

Politics is indeed being played over the Toshakhana, once a little-known department where gifts from foreign dignitaries شخصیات to government officials, bureaucrats, etc are stored. Consider the rather gimmicky مکروہ move by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to put on display the gifts he received on his official trips to Saudi Arabia and the UAE this year and the government notification stating he does not wish to retain any of them. The objective of this ‘transparency شفافیت’ is clearly to draw a stark سخت یا واضح contrast with his predecessor’s پیشرو’s cageyness احتیاط ، over the issue. Mr Khan should have paid heed دھیان to the adage پر کہاوت, ‘people in glass houses should not throw stones’. After all, his government had filed references against Asif Ali Zardari, Yousuf Raza Gilani and Nawaz Sharif for allegedly abusing the Toshakhana rules in relation to some gifted luxury vehicles. But last September when the Pakistan Information Commission sought details of the gifts presented to Mr Khan, then prime minister, his government refused, claiming implausibly ناقابل یقین that such

disclosure would damage international ties. That gave rise to speculation آرائی قیاس and then, when the coalition government came to power, to outright allegations about irregularities قاعدگیوں in the handling of the gifts.

Certainly, as Fawad Chaudhry said in his party leader's defence, "selling one's own assets is not a crime", but it is well known that undervaluing of precious قیمتی items in the Toshakhana is far from uncommon and affords the recipient an extraordinary financial advantage. That is not good optics for a party leader claiming to be a man of the people.

Published in Dawn,

- **JCPOA** : Created: 14 July 2015

Location: Vienna, Austria

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, known commonly as the Iran nuclear deal or Iran deal, is an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program reached in Vienna on 14 July 2015, between Iran and the P5+1 together with the European Union.

- **Mania** is a condition in which you have a period of abnormally elevated, extreme changes in your mood or emotions, energy level or activity level. This highly energized level of physical and mental activity and behavior must be a change from your usual self and be noticeable by others.
- **chipping away**, to remove, take away, or withdraw gradually night restores the magnificence that man has chipped away—
- **The Cuban Missile Crisis**, also known as the October Crisis of 1962 (Spanish: Crisis de Octubre), the Caribbean Crisis , or the Missile Scare, was a 35-day (16 October – 20 November 1962) confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union, which escalated into an international crisis when American deployments of missiles in Italy and Turkey

were matched by Soviet deployments of similar ballistic missiles in Cuba. Despite the short time frame, the Cuban Missile Crisis remains a defining moment in US national security and nuclear war preparation. The confrontation is often considered the closest the Cold War came to escalating into a full-scale nuclear war.

- **NIAC**: The National Iranian American Council is a nonprofit, civil society, and lobbying NGO based in Washington, D.C. Trita Parsi was one of the founders and is the organization's former president.
- **J Street** is a nonprofit liberal advocacy group based in the United States whose stated aim is to promote American leadership to end the Arab–Israeli and Israeli–Palestinian conflicts peacefully and diplomatically. J Street was incorporated on November 29, 2007.
- **firehose** an unfiltered, real-time stream of data produced by a social media website or other online service.
- **Fiscal space** is the flexibility of a government in its spending choices, and, more generally, to the financial well-being of a government.

- **Ad hoc** literally means "for this" in Latin, and in English this almost always means "for this specific purpose." Issues that come up in the course of a project ..

- **BISP**: Founded: July 2008

Founder: Yousaf Raza Gillani

The Benazir Income Support Programme is a federal unconditional cash transfer poverty reduction program in Pakistan. Launched in July 2008, it was the largest single social safety net program in the country with nearly Rs. 90 billion distributed to 5.4 million beneficiaries in 2016.

- A **standard operating procedure** is a set of step-by-step instructions compiled by an organization to help workers carry out routine operations. **SOPs** aim to achieve efficiency, quality output and uniformity of performance, while reducing miscommunication and failure to comply with industry regulations.
- The **Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)** was a global blueprint for disaster risk reduction efforts with a ten-year plan, adopted in January 2005 by 168 Member States of the United Nations at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction.

- The **National Disaster Management Authority**, is an autonomous and constitutionally established federal authority mandated to deal with the whole spectrum of disasters and their management in the country.
- The **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** is an international document that was adopted by the United Nations member states between 14 and 18 March 2015 at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan, and endorsed by the UN General Assembly in June 2015.
- **Building Back Better (BBB)** is a strategy aimed at reducing the risk to the people of nations and communities in the wake of future disasters and shocks.
- **Toshakhana** is a government owned department under the control of Cabinet Division of Pakistan formed in 1974. Its main purpose is to keep gifts which are received by members of parliament, ministers, foreign secretaries, President and Prime Minister.

Today's words Synonyms

absurdity(noun): idiocy; stupidity; foolishness.

rampant(adjective): uncontrolled; unrestrained; unchecked.

deception(noun): duplicity; fraud; cheating.

hysterical(adjective): overwrought; emotional; uncontrolled.

outlandish(adjective): weird; queer; offbeat.

continuum(noun): continuity, endurance, duration.

procurement(noun): acquisition.; acquirement.; appropriation.

gimmicky(adjective): dishonesty, deceit, corruption.

precursor(noun): forerunner; predecessor; forefather.

Today's Vocabulary and their Use

proponent حامی: a strong proponent of the free market and liberal trade policies.

slander بهتان لگانا: they were accused of slandering the head of state.

peddling بھیجنا: youths involved in drug peddling.

myriadبزاربا : myriads of insects danced around the light
above my head.