

## EDITORIAL

First the Pandemic, then the deluge, and now the default. It is being pointed out that concentration of wealth in the hands of few is a world-wide phenomenon. Our capitalists are earning a bad name. Dr. Ishrat Husain, former Dean and Director of the Institute of Business Administration, Karachi wrote that one percent of the population reversed the respective roles of state and market. The elite rigged the market and hijacked the state. However, history causes us pause. On 9 November 1945 *Dawn*, Delhi carried Mohammad Ali Jinnah's personal view that the major industries and services would be socialized. This could not be given effect to because India withheld Pakistan's share of her financial assets and Muslim plutocrats jumped in to save Pakistan from collapse.

During the first PPP regime 1971-1977 nationalization was resorted to, spelling an end to investment. This was in the backdrop of Dr. Mahbul-ul-Haq's complaint that "the wealth of Pakistan was held by 22 families only" (*Pakistan Observer*, Dacca, 3 May 1968). Whether nationalization or privatization is a panacea can be judged from the fact that while the demand of steel is sky high, Pakistan Steel Mills a state enterprise, remains closed. We must not judge our capital too harshly only draw their attention to the fear that if the State is compromised, the wealth of Pakistani stashed abroad shall have its title questioned. What we have is a trust deficit. If the IMF really wants to help the poor of this country, let them open an account where deposits for debt retirements can be accepted and acknowledged.

Meanwhile, in these lean times, our Journal continues to serve. The first paper is about the Kalash people in our northern areas who have retained their ancient Animistic religion. This retention offers us an opportunity to view for ourselves, a society otherwise long lost. The next paper, on the Muslim tombs of Choti-Hindira, is more

about restoration than representation, and shows where the funds are forthcoming restoration is possible, if the work is left to experts.

Evolution of Dialect and Script: a Case Study of Urdu, is not a great issue in Pakistan, but in India and elsewhere, it has become an issue. Since 1918 Mahatma Gandhi was struggling to establish a single national language for the whole of India and that is where Hindi/Hindustani emerged. This paper can also be viewed in the light of the Inder Kumar Gujral Commission of 1975.

The Ambela Expedition 1863 is an episode in the Anglo-Afghan Wars which needs to be focused on to understand how solidarity can serve a movement.

The last in this issue is about a medieval historian Ibn Khaldun's theory of *asabiyya* as applied to the on- going violence and terror. It is certainly worth considering, since the terrorists certainly represent raw power as against settled societies, and it is a warning bell.

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