

CHIEF EDITOR DR. SYED MUBIN AKHTAR



**KARACHI
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BULLETIN JUNE 2011

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DR MUBIN AKHTAR **ON A MISSION TO EDUCATE PAKISTANIS IN SEXUAL MATTERS**

(From an interview by Aileen Magbool BBC News)

The release of his book - **Sex Education for Muslims** - aims to teach people about sex in a way that is in keeping with Islamic instruction.

Dr Akhtar, 81, says the fact that sex is not discussed in Pakistan is having serious repercussions. As a psychiatrist, he says he has witnessed them himself, and that is why he felt the need to write his book.

"There's a huge problem in our country," he says.

"Adolescents, especially boys, when they get to puberty, and the changes that come with puberty, they think it's due to some disease.

"They start masturbating, and they are told that is very dangerous to health, and that this is sinful, very sinful."

'Misconceptions' - Dr Akhtar says he has seen cases where teenagers, not understanding what is happening to their bodies, have become depressed and even committed suicide. "I myself passed through that stage with all these concerns, and there's no-one to tell you otherwise, and that these are wrong perceptions. It was only when I entered medical college that I found out that these were all misconceptions." **"Ignorance about sexual matters is causing a lot of our young people unnecessary psychological distress."**

He says even now in Pakistan, many doctors do not discuss sexual matters openly, and that teachers and parents are embarrassed about the issues. **There is no sex education teaching in government schools.**

Dr Akhtar says it is not seen as appropriate to broach the subject of sex in the conservative culture of Pakistan, and that it is also felt that doing so might encourage young people to behave in an "un-Islamic" way.

"They ask me when you should start sex education, and I

say as soon as the child can talk. They should be told the names of the genitals just as they are told about hands and eyes and ears, and nose," he says.

"When they get a little bigger and they ask where a child comes from, you can say it. That doesn't make the child sexually active or immoral." **Dr Akhtar says there is also nothing un-Islamic about discussing sex.**

He says he felt that the best way to help people understand that was to write a book which brought together basic sex education with information about the Islamic perspective on the subject.

"When I started to study what the Koran, Islamic law and religious scholars had to say about it, I realised there is so much discussion about sex in Islam. One would be surprised.

"There are sayings from the Prophet Muhammad about sexual matters, and historical sources tell us he answered detailed queries on the subject from both men and women." The writings in Dr Akhtar's book are interspersed with quotes from the Prophet Muhammad, and also from the Koran, like this one: "You are allowed intercourse at night with your wives during the month of fasting. They are as intimate for you as your own clothes, and vice versa." (Koran, Surah Baqra, Verse 187)

'Quack'- Dr Akhtar writes of the Islamic thinking about masturbation, marital problems and how a man should wash himself after having sex so that he is clean enough to perform prayers. **Pakistani children have no access to sex education.**

Sex Education for Muslims is the name of the English version of the book, in Urdu the title is Special Problems for Young People.

خاندان

”ایسے ڈھیلے ڈھالے نظامِ خاندانی کو اسلام پسند نہیں کرتا جس میں کوئی انضباط نہ ہو اور گھر والوں کے اخلاق و معاملات درست رکھنے کا کوئی بھی ذمہ دار نہ ہو۔ نظم بہر حال ایک ذمہ دارِ ناظم ہی سے قائم ہو سکتا ہے اور اسلام کے نزدیک اس ذمہ داری کے لئے خاندان کا باپ ہی فطرِ خاموزوں ہے مگر اس کے یہ معنی نہیں ہیں کہ مرد کو گھر کا ایک جابر و قاهرِ فرماں روا بنا دیا گیا ہے اور عورت ایک بے بس لوٹری کی حیثیت سے اس کے حوالے کر دی گئی ہے۔ اسلام کے نزدیک ازدواجی زندگی کی اصل روح صحبت و رحمت ہے۔“
(سید ابوالاعلیٰ مودودیؒ)

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KARACHI PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

Vol. 34 Issue No. VI

June 2011

Regd. No. SS -237

MONTHLY BULLETIN

(Medical and General Articles)

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This magazine can be viewed on Website: www.kph.org.pk

EDUCATION IN CHAOS

Dr Syed Mubin Akhtar

A new survey by the Free and Fair Election Network has monitored 137 schools for girls in 87 districts of the country. The picture that emerges from these government schools for girls is an appalling one. Over 70 per cent had no sanitary staff and 49 per cent lacked drinking water. We have then, before us, an image of little girls sitting in filthy settings, unable to obtain water even as summer temperatures soar. Media focus on the social sector is limited and many of us have become indifferent to these events.

The quality of education we are able to offer even those who do attend schools is also highlighted by the survey. This part of the report discusses high levels of teacher absenteeism. However the condition of the boy's schools is not much better either. This is not a secret at all. The poor people of the country know this first hand. Village schools are often the cattle pens of the zamindar and even those that have been kindly spared, either the teachers are not appointed or more often they go about their private business and do not attend the school, or if they go there they are busy chatting and taking tea and all the while their pay is being regularly deposited in their accounts. All they have to do is to make sure that they grease the palms of some officers or the clerk involved in paying the salaries.

The rich know this too because they assiduously avoid these 'schools' and send their children to 'Grammar Schools'

and other 'English Medium Schools,' where being taught in the foreign language English they are also denied a really good education.

The bureaucrats, MPAs, MNAs, ministers, governors know this too but they are least bothered, as they are pursuing interests of their own.

No wonder the majority of our population (men and women) have no real education and our country as a whole is not able to progress. The poor are robbing the rich and security companies and guards multiply.

The governments (military as well as civil) prosper through bribery and corruption and are concerned with increasing their own treasures. Many political parties specially the MQM use criminals to murder opponents and those that don't give them regular payments. (Bhatta)

The Chief Justice came to Karachi in 2007, but the MQM killed forty people and wounded one hundred and limited his journey to Karachi to the airport. When the Sindh High court took up this matter it was besieged by hundreds of MQM criminals and the court subsequently stopped hearing those cases. The chief Justice has not bothered either.

In all this mayhem there is only one party of honest peaceful people i.e. Jamaat-e-Islami but it can't project itself properly to the masses. Let us pray to Allah that we extricate ourselves from these shackles soon. The Quran says 'Hopelessness is disbelief in Allah' so let us keep trying.

CHRISTIAN CATHOLIC PRIEST ACCUSED OF MOLESTING GIRLS

Dr Syed Mubin Akhtar

Father Joseph Jeyapaul has spent the past five years working in Catholic schools in India despite warnings from a US bishop, according to court documents.

Balke asked the Vatican to intervene and warned that Jeyapaul could pose a "serious risk" to the women and girls of his Indian parish.

Jeyapaul - who was temporarily assigned to the Diocese of Crookston in Minnesota in 2004 - was accused of repeatedly molesting a 16-year-old girl in the rectory.

Balke traveled to Rome in November 2006 to present the Congregation with Jeyapaul's file after a second girl came forward with sexual

abuse allegations

This problem occurs mainly because Christian Catholic priests take a vow of celibacy and are not allowed to get married. Obviously their natural sexual urges are misdirected towards illegal sex with women and girls, as well as sexual abuse of boys, who are usually in their care due to the schools and other institutions they supervise.

Another problem is that of institution of 'priesthood', that is present in every other religion except Islam. This gives the wrongdoers authority to coerce men, women and children into illegal and immoral sex, as well as other forms of exploitation.

OUR CORRUPT WAYS

(From an article by Babar Sattar in The News)

Transparency International has issued its annual report listing Pakistan amongst the most corrupt nations in the world and has highlighted General Musharraf's National Reconciliation Ordinance as the point when we voluntarily regressed into a state of madness that justifies looters.

While the NRO continues to outrage citizens for perverting the very concept of rule of law, the Holders of Public Offices (Accountability) Bill, 2009 - meant to replace the NAB Ordinance - is coming to be seen by concerned citizens as a permanent NRO. But our problem of corruption is not limited to the NRO or the new (un)-Accountability Bill, but is much

more deep-seated. While we continue to focus on financial corruption that the elites indulge in, we tend to ignore various forms of social and intellectual corruption being practiced in our midst with vigour, which allow financial corruption to exist in the first place. The bane of our existence is a deeply entrenched logic of necessity and the unscrupulous ethic of success it produces wherein the end justifies all means however rotten.

"When you see that trading is done, not by consent, but by compulsion - when you see that in order to produce, you need to obtain permission from men who produce nothing - when you see that money is flowing to

those who deal, not in goods, but in favours - when you see that men get richer by graft and by pull than by work, and your laws don't protect you against them, but protect them against you - when you see corruption being rewarded and honesty becoming a self-sacrifice - you may know that your society is doomed," wrote Ayn Rand in *Atlas Shrugged* back in 1957. She could well have been writing about Pakistan today. Have we not started promulgating and justifying laws that indeed redeem and protect the looters? Have we not turned into an economy where becoming middlemen is so much more profitable than indulging in the business of actually producing goods or services? Are we not becoming a nation where mastery of shrewd street-smart ways of dodging work is preferred over investing time and effort to learn the ethic of diligence? Are we not degenerating into a society where honesty and integrity is indeed a burden that retards upward social mobility of the individual infested by these virtues?

Notwithstanding reports of international accountability groups, can we remember a time over the last few decades when ordinary people felt a visible decline in the level of corruption in Pakistan? Have the land transfer departments, the police, the magistracy, the municipal authorities, cantonment boards, public utility providers or the taxation authorities become any less corrupt under any regime? Are we not aware that a patwari, a police inspector or a magistrate cannot sustain himself and his family in the paltry compensation being provided by the state and will indulge in bribery and extortion because he has the power to do so? And while we do nothing about the deformed salary structure that eliminates the possibility of an honest individual surviving in public

service let alone attracting fresh talent, we continue to justify graft as an occupational hazard for public officials while also continuing to participate in a system of patronage where huge bribes are paid and favours called to get friends and family members inducted into jobs where the salary is pittance but which bring along the possibility of extracting bribes.

Do we expect an individual, who has paid half a million and used all his political pull to get the job of a sub-inspector that pays around Rs10,000 a month, to derive pleasure from serving the people and the penal justice system? Is a lawyer of dodgy reputation feverishly lobbying to be elevated to the bench in order to get access to means of state patronage, influence and power likely to uphold the rule of law and contribute to the evolution of sensible jurisprudence?

If we continue to sustain a political culture where men of wealth and influence seek to acquire political power only to make more money to fight the next round and dispense state authority and patronage to satisfy the fair and foul demands of their cronies and constituents, what will become of the men of ability and integrity who cannot play this dirty game? This is not to say that in order to address the problem of corruption Pakistan must first be transformed into a fairyland where no one conceives an impure thought and where nobility and virtue prosper unabatedly. But that we need to revamp the rules of the game in this polity to create a social, political and professional incentive structure where ability, integrity and courage to speak candidly is rewarded and not penalized. We will need to understand clearly that every corrupt individual is no lone miscreant but part of a patronage system supported by a cultural and ethical code that places a higher premium on loyalty,

subservience and personal allegiance than ability, professionalism and dedication to principle.

The existence of this system of patronage has been made possible not necessarily because of the pawns who physically take bribes, but by the intellectually dishonest who justify and support it with full knowledge that it is wrong and by our collective acquiescence as a society to a morbid value set that is simply unethical. This is not a moral judgment meant to denounce materialism or the desire to promote self-interest. For there is nothing wrong with being driven by material comforts, or considerations of wealth or fame so long as the means are fair. But we need to engender a culture that celebrates fame and fortune when it is the product of personal work and ability. And such value structure then needs to be braced by laws that prevent looters from stealing a fortune or gate-crashing their way into fame and power. The big picture is not meant to justify that there is no work to be done immediately. To stem the rot we need to undo instruments such as the NRO that make stark the gulf between law and the justice it is meant to produce, and prevent the (un)-Accountability Bill from becoming law which is based on the depraved yet simple idea that when all other elites have been molesting this country and getting away with it, why shouldn't politicians be able to make hay while the sun shines.

No one piece of legislation will rid us of the looters and their corrupt ways and not the mightiest court will be able to prevent the abuse of public office until such time that we as a nation refuse to abide by a value set that remains tolerant toward social and intellectual corruption practiced in the name of need, loyalty and expediency. So long as we are

willing to justify access to power acquired through dishonesty in any form - intellectual, social or financial - or access to patronage dispensed by the holders of such power in the name of necessity and ground reality, we will continue to feed the roots that bear the evil fruits of corruption. The logic of necessity that an ordinary citizen uses to justify an ill-gotten favour from a local policeman or politician is the same logic used in the highest echelons of power to rationalize manifest abuse of authority. Unless we refute this logic of necessity that defines our ethic of success collectively as a nation, corruption will continue to thrive and it will become harder to locate men and women of ability and integrity in public life.

Editor's notes: Fortunately there is one political party with its educated and disciplined supporters whose members have worked as ministers, MNAs, MPAs, and local body officials and have proved themselves scrupulously honest i.e. The Jamaat-e-Islami.



MONEY IS YOURS BUT RESOURCES BELONG TO THE SOCIETY

Furie KL et al. - Stroke 2011 Jan

Germany is a highly industrialized country. It produces top brands like Benz, BMW, Siemens etc. The nuclear reactor pump is made in a small town in this country. In such a country, many will think its people lead a luxurious life. At least that was my impression before my study trip.

When I arrived at Hamburg, my colleagues who work in Hamburg arranged a welcome party for me in a restaurant. As we walked into the restaurant, we noticed that a lot of tables were empty. There was a table where a young couple was having their meal. There were only two dishes and two cans of beer on the table. I wondered if such simple meal could be romantic, and whether the girl will leave this stingy guy.

There were a few old ladies on another table. When a dish is served, the waiter would distribute the food for them, and they would finish every bit of the food on their plates.

We did not pay much attention to them, as we were looking forward to the dishes we ordered. As we were hungry, our local colleague ordered more food for us. As the restaurant was quiet, the food came quite fast. Since there were other activities arranged for us, we did not spend much time dining. When we left, there was still about one third of unconsumed food on the table.

When we were leaving the restaurant, we heard someone calling us. We noticed the old ladies in the restaurant were talking about us to the restaurant owner. When they spoke to

us in English, we understood that they were unhappy about us wasting so much food. We immediately felt that they were really being too busybody.

We paid for our food, it is none of your business how much food we left behind," my colleague Gui told the old ladies. The old ladies were furious. One of them immediately took her hand phone out and made a call to someone. After a while, a man in uniform claimed to be an officer from the Social Security organization arrived. Upon knowing what the dispute was, he issued us a 50 Euro fine. We all kept quiet. The local colleague took out a 50 Euro note and repeatedly apologized to the officer.

The officer told us in a stern voice,

"ORDER WHAT YOU CAN CONSUME, MONEY IS YOURS BUT RESOURCES BELONG TO THE SOCIETY. THERE ARE MANY OTHERS IN THE WORLD WHO ARE FACING SHORTAGE OF RESOURCES. YOU HAVE NO REASON TO WASTE RESOURCES."

Our face turned red. We all agreed with him in our hearts. The mindset of people of this rich country put all of us to shame. WE REALLY NEED TO REFLECT ON THIS. We are from a country which is not very rich in resources.

To save face, we order large quantity and also waste food when we give others a treat. THIS TAUGHT US A LESSON TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT CHANGING OUR BAD

HABITS.

My colleague photostatted the fine ticket and gave a copy to each of us as a souvenir. All of us kept it pasted on our wall to remind us that we shall never be wasteful.

Editor's notes: One doesn't need to go to Germany to learn that wasting food and drink is bad. Frugality in this matter has been decreed by the prophet (May Allah bless him). A person with an

expensive style of life has been called "brother of Satan". Muslims have been told to conserve even water. A teaching of the prophet (May Allah bless him) states that one should not waste water even in the performance of ablution (وضو) even if a whole river is flowing in front. Muslims have been advised to avoid over filling their stomachs on food also, and to share this with others who are in need.

BLAIR'S SISTER-IN-LAW BECOMES A MUSLIM

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair's sister-in-law Lauren Booth, a rights campaigner and Muslim convert, said Wednesday he should be tried for war crimes over the invasion of Iraq.

Booth, the half-sister of Blair's barrister wife Cherie, is in Malaysia for lectures organized by Viva Palestina, a British-based organization associated with controversial politician George Galloway.

Asked whether Blair should be arrested and sent to the International Court of Justice in The Hague for war crimes, Booth replied: "Absolutely. He misled the British people and took Britain to war on a lie."

The conflict in Iraq was "an offence", she told reporters after a speech at a Malaysian university, saying it was organized well in advance between Blair and the United States leadership.

Booth has been a vocal opponent of the war in Iraq, and a supporter of the Palestinian cause and in 2008 travelled

with other activists to Gaza by ship to protest against Israel's blockade of the territory.

The 43-year-old, who wore a black headscarf that tightly framed her face as she gave an address on "Islam from the perspective of Western women", discussed her own conversion.

"My friends think I was naive and stupid, they have rubbished me so much," she said. "Really, joining Islam is not a trendy thing to do. "Friends ask me, don't you miss going to the pub?"

But she defended her decision, which came after a trip to Iran in September 2010, and said that perceptions about Muslim women were incorrect. "I sat down in the mosque in Iran, there was such tranquility. I had the compulsion to pray and from then on I knew I was a Muslim," she said. "Muslim women are not oppressed... it is Western women who are oppressed... Western women are bored, lonely and oppressed." AFP

ELIMINATING CORRUPTION FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(From an article by M. Osman Ghani and Alauddin Masud in The News)

The word 'corruption' stands for misuse of any political or national entity for the fulfillment of self-aggrandizement. Corruption breeds deprivation, social disharmony, poverty and widens the gap between haves and have-nots.

In a country like Pakistan, rampant corruption hinders economic prosperity, growth and investment, aside from aggravating poverty and inequality, thereby adversely affecting the overall wellbeing of the common people. Corrupt practices such as bribery, embezzlement etc occur due to weak state management, discretion over decision making, lack of accountability and low income levels. The major causes of poverty and socio-economic inequalities in the country are firmly entrenched in endemic corruption.

Despite having anti-corruption laws of no use, widespread corruption is now the number one problem in the country and its economic system. Highlighting the rapidly growing corruption in the country, the chief justice of Pakistan recently said that efforts were being made to hush up all the corruption cases as the responsible people were not being arrested.

Financial gains for a few privileged individuals have compounded economic miseries for the majority of the 180 million population. It has turned several public sector enterprises into loss-making entities. Highly corrupt and incompetent officials holding key positions in government run companies have left a trail of exceptional

cases of corruption never witnessed before. **As a direct impact of corrupt and inefficient practices more than 3.2 million jobs were lost in FY09. A clear manifestation of mounting corruption in the society is the unbridled increase in prices of common use items, most particularly food commodities such as wheat, rice, pulses, sugar and such. Uninhibited market manipulation has sparked a rapid surge in sugar prices.**

Pakistanis are now compelled to purchase sugar at prices ranging from Rs60-70 per kg in various parts of the country. Meanwhile, many state-owned enterprises plagued by this hazard encompass Pakistan Steel Mills, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda). In view of nationwide corruption cases, the number is extremely high. **The general perception prevailing among the masses is that up to Rs1 trillion, including Rs500 billion in annual tax evasion, is the direct result of corruption. Also, if the revenue figure of absentee taxpayers in the informal and agriculture sectors is added, which many experts estimate at Rs500 billion, the cumulative corruption figure might touch Rs1.5 trillion per annum in Pakistan which is about 10 per cent of its GDP in FY 10.** Prime Minister Gilani recently stated that corruption in the country was blooming due to lack of good governance.

The media, judiciary, non-government organizations (NGOs) and civil society

should increase their efforts for introducing good governance. It was only due to concerted and collective efforts that the immunity enjoyed by politicians under the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) was withdrawn. In addition, owing to extensive media coverage and timely judicial action, Rs7.5 billion of Rs9 billion bank default by Harris Steels was recovered in a short time.

According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), corruption was the main hurdle in doing business and led to rising cost of production in Pakistan. A report released by WEF earlier this year unfolded the economic state of affairs, business environment and other references of 139 countries and it placed Pakistan at the 123rd position. Pakistan's ranking is dwindling at an alarming rate, it further said. S. M. Zafar, a senator and renowned lawyer, was of the opinion that corruption and unequal distribution of wealth were the main causes behind increasing terrorism, violence, and heinous crimes in the country. While addressing the 30th human rights awards ceremony in Lahore on February 27, 2011, he said, "Corruption denies the people justice and it makes their lives miserable."

The country's economic planners admit that the economy is riddled with rules and regulations that may once have addressed a real economic or social issue, but now too often they only serve to create arbitrary obstructions to; doing business. In its annual report for the year 2005, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) identified lengthy and cumbersome procedures in the executive system, lack of transparency in government decision making process, betrayal of public trust, weakness in the judicial system and

flagrant abuse of power by public office holders, amongst the major causes of corruption in Pakistan. As dissolution of such impediments is always time consuming, therefore, slow processing of cases frequently requires the business circles and the people to pay substantial bribes or "gifts" to officials. According to the World Bank's report on Pakistan's investment climate in 2007, several managers of top firms reported that they had made payments to government officials of close to 35 per cent of the value of their enterprises' sales in order to resolve bureaucratic issues. This phenomenon explains the colossal cost of doing business in the country and the exorbitant increase in the selling prices of Pakistani products.

There are various forms and kinds of corruption. Accepting bribes, bestowing undue favours upon favourites or gaining financial/personal benefit, in any way, are some of the most commonly practiced forms. In Pakistan, people are familiar with a form of political corruption as well. In this category, the most common forms of corrupt practices include: horse-trading, coercion, intimidation, threats, bank loan write-offs, etc.

One of the perceived pre-requisites of good governance is transparency in administration and, in fact, in public life as a whole. If the government of a country is conducted openly, the government can afford transparency in most of its activities.

On the other hand, corruption inhibits good governance. It undermines economic development, stunts growth, fuels poverty and creates political instability. No nation can develop to its full capacity if its social system is plagued by corruption and inefficiency. Corruption not only causes a

severe drain on the national economy, it also acts as a major disincentive to attract foreign investment.

Even the overseas Pakistanis are reluctant to make investment in their motherland because of widespread corruption. The more enterprising amongst them, however, prefer to establish their industrial ventures in tax free zones across the country. If the authorities want the economy to pick-up and become robust in the real sense, they need to attract entrepreneurs, including expatriates, for large scale investment in the country. Naturally, entrepreneurs prefer to invest in countries which are more business-friendly and where the industrialists have to deal with only a limited number of official agencies. If the authorities are serious about rectifying the fir uncial situation, they need to make a beginning by eliminating the culture of nepotism, underhand deals, and lack of transparency. Until that is done, the country's progress would be threatened and the privileged few will continue to walk away with their misdeeds.

Editor's notes: Corruption in the government can only be eliminated by electing honest people like those of the Jamaat-e-Islami.

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RAMPANT CORRUPTION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

(From an article by M. Osman Ghani in The News)

Poverty has a variety of causes and repercussions. **According to the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) developed by the United Nations Human Development Report, to be released in October 2010, 51 per cent of Pakistanis are poor.** The older criteria of \$1.25 a day showed only 23 per cent to be in the impoverished category. The Government's own national poverty line placed 33 per cent of the population living in poverty. **The latest index reveals that there are more than 88 million poor people living in the country and the number is surely increasing.**

Growing population as compared to limited resources, illiteracy, lack of technological and managerial skills in human resources, and inefficiency etc. are some generic factors that lead to poverty. **However, rampant corruption which has soared in recent years and the highly controversial war against terrorism, have aggravated the poverty level to a much higher extent. The war against extremism is imposing a huge cost to the country's infrastructure. Not only has it expanded the number of internally displaced persons, but the government has to bear a massive rise in its defence and non-development expenditures. According to a former information minister, Pakistan has already incurred a cost of \$45 billion in respect of the ongoing war on terror.** (1)

Tax evasion and corruption have engulfed the economy from all corners. Successive governments have abdicated their basic obligation to collect fair revenues. They have very conveniently paved way for economic inequality and social unjust to take place.

Illegal acts such as smuggling, under-invoicing and mis-declaration of goods have become a norm in today's trading system, because the concerned organizations or individuals have no sense of accountability and find a lucrative business in these unlawful activities. **Economic progress is only possible through responsible governance that takes fair decisions based on merit instead of political influence.** (2)

We were ranked the 10th most failed state in the world, just three places below Afghanistan, in a US survey released recently. Pakistan is the world's seventh-most populous country, with a population density of over 226 people per kilometer. The country has a moderate proportion of youth; the average age is 21 and over 37 per cent of Pakistanis are under 15 years of age. Political instability has led many students to flee the country and pursue their higher education abroad. Hundreds of well qualified and learned individuals, including doctors, businessmen etc, who could have contributed tremendously to socio-economic prosperity, are leaving the country out of sheer frustration and despair.

The poorest 10 per cent of Pakistanis account for only 4 per cent of the national income, while the richest 10 per cent account for over 26 per cent of the income. Billionaire President Asif Ali Zardari is one of Pakistan's wealthiest men. The official unemployment rate is 7.4 per cent but it could be higher. The continuing violence in Pakistan's poorest and most remote regions makes it extremely difficult for food and medical supplies to reach the areas that need it most. Many parts of the country go without electricity and clean water.

More than 70 per cent of the citizens adamantly believe that the present corruption level has surpassed the previous one, as per a recent report of the Transparency International Pakistan (T.I.P). **On the basis of the report an average expenditure on bribery per household in 2010 was recorded at Rs 10537. Based on a population of over 170 million and eight members per family, the cost of bribery comes to Rs23 billion alone.** The report further states that the most corrupt sectors of 2010 include land administration, education, local government, judiciary, taxation, customs and tendering, contracting and power, which has managed to retain the first and second position since 2002. **As far as the most corrupt provincial government is concerned, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa holds the top position.** (3) Former Prime Minister, Shaukat Aziz accused the staff of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to consume over Rs 500 billion a year. A lack of accountability, merit and low salaries are the main reasons behind the dishonesty and utter corruption that exists in the tax office.

Almost all the revenue earning public sector enterprises (PSEs) are in a tumultuous financial position. If the cumulative losses incurred by five major state-run entities are added with the mounting circular debt, subsidies and bailout packages provided to them, they would equal the figure of about one half of FBR's revenue collection per annum. Pakistan Steel Mills incurred a cumulative loss of Rs39 billion during the last two years mainly because of corruption, low capacity and fixed financial cost. A sum of Rs47 billion bailout package that, would be needed to revamp the cash-strapped institution would include Rs20.5 billion in long-term liabilities, Rs22.01 billion in current liabilities and Rs3.968 billion in one-time payment to the officers and employees.

According to the Transparency International the government can save over \$4 billion by implementing Public Procurement Rules 2004,

in the federal government, armed forces, provinces and corporations/authorities/trusts. The federal and provincial authorities including armed forces were estimated to spend Rs 1200 billion on procurement in 2010-11. **Pakistan can save at least 30 per cent of it, amounting to Rs360 billion (over \$4 billion), which is the direct cost of corruption in procurement only.**

Corruption is a national phenomenon now. It is one of the biggest challenges faced in building the foundation for a secure future. Practical measures should be taken to address this issue on a war footing. If it is effectively checked and brought under vigilant control, there would be no need to seek hard pressed foreign loans that usually come with demeaning and injurious strings attached. Thus, the only effective means to tackle the increasing poverty is eliminating corruption and inefficiency, ensuring fair distribution of income and creating large employment opportunities, both in urban and rural areas. **Wastage of resources needs to be stopped by concluding the war on terror amicably, without further bloodshed, as Pakistan cannot afford such huge costs with its limited resources for a longer period.**

Footnotes:

1. America forced Musharaf to stab friend and Muslim state Afghanistan in the back. Also a war was started against formerly loyal tribal people; PPP Government is doing this even more.
2. The only political party that has a reputation for honesty is the Jamaat-e-Islami. It is in Pakistan's interest to elect its members to all the country's assemblies.
3. In contrast to this when the Mutahida Majlis-e-Amal ruled the former frontier province (the present Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) it was declared the best provincial government by the Transparency International.

DAMNING REPORT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

(Editorial - The News)

The real cost of failing to educate our children is exposed with clinical accuracy by a new report on the state of our education system. The report is a product of the Pakistan Education Task Force and it makes grim reading. Reports of this nature tend to be serial dust-gatherers, but this one might have a life beyond the desktops of concerned educationalists and education providers or policy planners. The PETF has launched a website that went live on March 9 which enables anybody with a net connection to follow its work. The data at the heart of the report leaves no room for equivocation.

One in ten of the world's population of out of school children is from Pakistan - equivalent to the population of Lahore. The Millennium Development goals for education are not going to be met - they will be missed by a mile and we look askance at India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka as they streak ahead in the race to achieve these goals.

Astonishingly, no citizen of this country alive today will see universal education as defined by our Constitution, and at current rates of progress Baluchistan will not see universal education until the year 2100.

Truly, we face an emergency of the gravest nature in our education system. It has been neglected by successive governments since partition, and wilfully neglected at that. There are 26 countries listed as being poorer than Pakistan but all of them send a higher proportion of

their children to school - so the claim that education for all is too expensive holds no water. It is about will and the effective articulation of demand - of people getting up and demanding their right to education as enshrined in law. We are not too poor to provide sufficient funds to improve the system, and with an additional spend of Rs 100 billion over the next two years there could be a significant improvement in this gloomy picture. The operant word here is 'could'. With budgets devolved to the provinces they are not spending up to their capacity in the education budget line - they lack the capacity to effectively spend the money and education slips further down the list of priorities.

Our governments happily subsidise white elephants like PIA, Pakistan Steel and PEPCO but doggedly refuse to invest in one of the few genuine assets we have - our human capital in the form of school-going children. This timely and damning report goes beyond being a wake-up call, it is a final notice. Either we invest in the education of our children or we fail to thrive as a state. And for that we have nobody to blame but every government that never thought it worth bothering with.

Editor's Notes: Let us reject all political parties that have held office in the last sixty years and elect the educated, committed and honest people of Jamaat-e-Islami.

THE CORRUPT COALITION AND AMERICAN HEGEMONY

(From an article by Raoof Hasan in the News)

While delivering a lecture in Islamabad, US Ambassador Cameron Munter unfurled a few tricks from his mission statement: "We appear to be intrusive (in financial and governance matters of the host country) because we care (!). We are the largest donor. Our aid comes as outright grant of assistance which is different from loans". He went on to say, "Yes, we are demanding", adding that although Washington might have been bluntly saying what it believed should have been done, but it came with a "measure of respect" (thank you my lord!). He insisted: "We will continue to be this way".

One fails to come across a parallel case of foreign intrusiveness in the affairs of another country to an extent and bluntness of such magnitude. If aid were to be made the basis of interference, would the US ambassador accredited to Israel say this to its Middle Eastern client that is the largest recipient of their financial assistance? He spoke like a viceroy would to a conquered state. Any country, with even a modicum of honour and integrity, would have immediately summoned the errant ambassador and asked for an explanation, better still, given him the marching orders.

At a different level, this convoluted confession is a reflection of the respect, or a lack of it, that the US holds for the host government. It is a relationship that could only exist between a master and

his slave, or between a feudal and his serf. It is not a relationship that would exist between two sovereign states. It also reflects the extent to which the incumbent leadership made depraved compromises to facilitate their ascent. Let's not forget that, alongside General Musharraf the US was the principal sponsor of the criminal National Reconciliation Ordinance that facilitated the writing off of numerous cases of alleged crimes and paved the way for the PPP leadership to come into power.

While the US has already got its pound of flesh a million times over, there is no satiating its lust for more. This lust has often found indiscriminate expression in inhuman and brutal actions across the landscapes of Vietnam, Cambodia, South America, Iraq and Afghanistan; but these countries refused to submit. While many of them fought the aggressor, the others are in the process of doing so. The US dare not lecture any of these countries. It does so only in Pakistan because it knows that we'll not fight back. We have sold out soul to the devil itself.

The nation is being led up the alley of darkness yet again - all in the name of sustaining a system that has effectively lost all its promise and transparency. This system is a misnomer for democracy. No matter how one looks at it, it does not pass the test of being democratic even in its most rudimentary form. It is a dictatorship

of the corrupt that is being perpetuated through acts that are lacking in any good intention for the honour of the country or the welfare of its people.

The increasing US intrusiveness and its venomous tentacles, a corrupt, inefficient and ineffective government and an opposition smitten with disunity and a misplaced paranoia of intervention by the army - all make for a continuation of the incumbent circus. Amidst the imbroglio of rising prices, deteriorating law and order

situation, rising ethnic and religious strife and a government that has abdicated its writ to the wolves, the prospects of a change through peaceful means are fast diminishing.

Editor's notes: The next elections are fast approaching. This time reject all the parties in the coalition of the present government and elect only the honest and upright people of the Jamaat-e-Islami.

NO BLASPHEMER HANGED IN PAKISTAN

(From an article by Tahir Khalil in The News)

A report of the Interior Ministry shows that the blasphemy law was not misused and no blasphemer has been given death sentence so far under this law in Pakistan.

The blasphemy law has been enforced in 56 countries of the world. According to the sources, in order to ensure fair use of this law a proposal is being considered seriously to file case of blasphemy through the order of the sessions judge instead of SP.

According to the constitutional and legal aspects about Tahafuz-e-Namoos-e-Rislat under Article 1 of the draft of Pakistan, the name of Pakistan has been declared as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and due to 96 percent population of Muslims, Islam has been declared state religion in the draft of Pakistan.

Article 31 of the Constitution said that it is the responsibility of the state to provide

such facilities to Muslims, individually and collectively, in Pakistan so that they can pass their lives in accordance with the basic codes of Islam which help them apprehend the significance of life in accordance with Quran and Sunnah. Article 33 demands that the state will discourage regional, racial, tribal, sectarianism and parochialism prejudices among the citizens of the country and therefore, Pakistan is included in those countries where the blasphemy laws are strictly implemented.

Section 295 of the India Act 1880 was declared the part of Pakistan Penal Code. Its sections said that the convict of blasphemy would be punished. These sections of the Indian Act 1880 have been enforced in India and Bangladesh. There are laws to protect Christianity in some European countries.

EC CONFIRMS 45PC NA, PA SEATS DUBIOUS

(From an article by Usman Manzoor in The News)

After the revelation of the Election Commission of Pakistan regarding the dubious voters lists, 45.78 percent seats of the National and provincial assemblies have also become dubious.

The ECP informed the Supreme Court that some 37,185,998 voters from the total of 81,213,741 in 2007 had been declared by Nadra to be dubious or unverified. The court has been told only 44,027,743 were verified voters in 2007.

The ECP's revelation has raised serious questions over the validity and status of 156 seats of National Assembly, which is 45 percent of 342, the total number of seats in the NA. Furthermore, in the house of 124 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 56 seats are dubious according to the ECP's disclosure.

As many as 170 seats of MPAs in the Punjab have also become doubtful. Total seats in the Punjab Assembly are 371. The Sindh Assembly has 168 seats of which the results of 77 seats are doubtful, and in a 65 member House of Balochistan Assembly, 29 seats are dubious.

The ECP press release dated 8th March 2011, says that the number of voters registered in the Electoral Rolls-2007 without identity cards is 15,028,808; Invalid Computerised NICs were 2,140,015; Duplicate CNIC entries were noticed to be 2,491,090; duplicate manual NIC entries were noted as 6,469,310 and 11,056,775 manual NICs do not exist in the Nadra

database.

The press release also says that for the purpose of clarity, the ECP secretary explained that after verification of 44,027,743 genuine voters from 2007 Electoral Rolls, Nadra has added another 36,520,000 voters from their CNIC database, thereby, making the total number of CNIC holders as 80,547,743, which are now going to be verified through door-to-door verification exercise, where after the final list of Electoral Rolls will be printed to be used in future elections.

"The ECP secretary emphasized that the draft amendments proposed in the Representation of the People's Act 1976 and the Electoral Rolls Act 1974 to make only the CNIC as a mandatory condition for registration of voters as well as casting of vote, which has already been cleared the Senate's Standing Committee on Law and Justice, now needs to be passed by parliament on immediate basis as that is a pre-requisite for completion of this task of national importance," says the press release.

Editor's notes: Thus the present political parties in the provincial and national assemblies have succeeded by using bogus votes in the voting lists, not to mention other fraudulent and strong arm methods. It is time to try other honest people like those of the Jamaat-e-Islami.

1001 INVENTIONS: SCIENCE IN MUSLIM LANDS

(From an article in Dawn)

An exhibition about innovation in Muslim civilization seeks to highlight what organizers say is an overshadowed period of history, a "Golden Age" in which advances in engineering, medicine and architecture laid groundwork for western progress from the Renaissance until modern times. It is titled: "1001 Inventions: Discover the Muslim Heritage in Our World." The show seeks to be strictly academic, and shuns political or religious pronouncements. But the robust response of many young Muslims suggests a thirst for cultural pride against a contemporary backdrop of conflict and suspicion between the West and Muslim countries. "Originally, it was aimed at the western public," said Salim AlHassani, organizer of the Britain based exhibition and a professor of mechanical engineering at Manchester University. "But we found that when people from the Muslim world see it they get fired up, especially the young people who are in search of identity." It's a slick production, with an introductory film featuring a Harry Potter-like fantasy sequence with Sir Ben Kingsley, the Oscar-winning actor, as a mysterious figure who dispels three skeptical students in a library of preconceptions about the past.

The centerpiece of the show is a replica of an elaborate "elephant" clock that symbolized a multicultural spirit and pioneered modern automation and robotics. It used Greek water-powered technology and the figures of an Indian elephant, an Egyptian phoenix, a Persian carpet, Chinese dragons and men in Arabian dress.

It was designed 800 years ago by Al Jazari, a Muslim engineer in what is today

southeastern Turkey. Other giants of innovation during the 1,000-year period that began in the seventh century were physician Al Zahrawi, whose innovations shaped European surgery, and Fatima Al Fihri, whose multi-subject institute of learning, with no gender restrictions, laid foundations for the modern university. "There is a perception that Islam was always backward and made no contribution to the world of science," said visitor Sule Seda Tezer, who was especially pleased to note the high profile of women in the displays. "The West has a phobia about Islam. I think there is an effort to break the phobia and build better ties between the East and West." With 40,000 followers, the "1001 Inventions" Face book page echoes her enthusiasm. "Come to Algeria!" and "we are waiting 4 u in Damascus" are among the posts. From Saudi Arabia, Abdul-Kareem Andeejani wrote: "Will you ever come to open in Riyadh? Please? I want to know more of my own history; I see it as highly important to look back in time, so that we can pick up what we have forgotten." The exhibit has interactive features designed to attract children, and details research in optics, music and algebra from Muslim civilizations that once encompassed parts of Europe and ranged as far as China. One curiosity is a replica of the flying machine of Abbas ibn Firnas, who constructed a winged framework near Cordoba in Spain and flew briefly before injuring himself. Centuries later, Leonardo da Vinci worked on his own flying designs. In Istanbul, at least 6,000 people a day - up to twice that on weekends - file daily into the exhibition tent in front of the former Byzantine

church of Hagia Sophia, and near the fabled Blue Mosque, built during the Ottoman Empire. The exhibition had a successful run at the Science Museum in London earlier this year, and will move to the New York Hall of Science after ending its seven-week Istanbul stint. It arrived hurriedly in Turkey after Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan saw it in London and said he was eager to host it.

"There was an attempt to impose a history that jumped from ancient Greece straight to the Renaissance period," Erdogan said at the opening ceremony last week. "Later on, some

western scientists made a praiseworthy effort to acknowledge the contributions of Islamic civilization to the history of science." Ehsan Masoud, author of "Science and Islam: A History", and editor of a research policy newsletter in Britain, said scientific innovation in Muslim lands began to decline as Islamic empires grew weak and poor, and western colonial powers expanded.

"It's fair to say that history is written by the victors," Masoud said. "Quite understandably, western nations are hardly going to start crediting the people they've defeated."-AP

EX GUV HUCKABEE DISAPPROVES OF NATALIE PORTMAN WHO IS PREGNANT BUT UNMARRIED

Not everyone thinks Natalie Portman is the it woman of the century (okay, the decade or something in that time frame). Sure, she's an Oscar winner, has been acting since she was 11, and likes and promotes the whole woman of substance thing, but former Arkansas governor, Mike Huckabee is not impressed. While on the radio with conservative talk show host Michael Medved, Huckabee opined that Natalie might just be sending out the wrong message by being pregnant and unmarried.

One of the things that's troubling is that people see a Natalie Portman or some other Hollywood starlet who boasts of, "Hey look, you know, we're having children, we're not married, but we're having these children, and they're doing just fine."

More than boasting of their pregnancies, it's the consequences of them being

made okay by the celebs we all look up to that trouble Mike.

"But there aren't really a lot of single moms out there who are making millions of dollars every year for being in a movie," he says.

As far as Natalie or any other star being a single mom is concerned, Huckabee thinks they're pretty much sorted. It's the 'real people' Huckabee worries about. "And I think it gives a distorted image that yes, not everybody hires nannies, and caretakers, and nurses. Most single moms are very poor, uneducated, can't get a job, and if it weren't for government assistance, their kids would be starving to death and never have health care. And that's the story that we're not seeing, and it's unfortunate that we glorify and glamorize the idea of out-of-wedlock children. (From an article in the News)

THE FAMED LAWRENCE OF ARABIA WAS A BRITISH SPY

(From an article by Zia Mohyeddin in the News)

The Balfour Declaration' by Jonathan is an interesting book. His account leaves no one in any doubt that Britain's pledge (made in 1917) to support a Jewish homeland in Palestine was motivated primarily by the need to win the First World War. Many English Tories, of whom Lord Kitchner was the chief, believed that an engineered rebellion of Arabs against the Turks would enable England while fighting Germany, simultaneously to defeat Turkey.

The arrogance of an Imperial power knows no bounds. On November 2, 1917, Arthur Balfour, the British foreign Secretary wrote to Lord Rothschild, the head of Britain's Jewish community saying: "His Majesty's government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for Jewish people..."

It was not as though Palestine was an uninhabited tract which could now be occupied by the Jews. Palestine was a Muslim country and had been one for centuries. The decree to hand it over to Jews was not entirely unlike Hitler declaring that Austria - later Czechoslovakia - would henceforth be a part of Germany. Schneer's research is thorough and penetrating. He tells us that soon after the British cabinet had taken the momentous decision to give Palestine to the Jews, the diplomat, Sir Mark Sykes rushed and announced triumphantly to Chaim Weizmann, the Zionist leader "It's a boy".

The reason for this muddled, momentous pledge, Jonathan Schneer contends, can only be understood if it is examined in its complicated context. Britain, heavily involved in the First World War was locked in a bloody stalemate on the western front and desperate to break the power of the Ottoman Empire in the

Middle East. The government actively began to spread its net in 1916. The High Commissioner of Egypt encouraged Sharif Hussein of Mecca to revolt against the Turks by offering him an independent emirate. T.E. Lawrence made several trips to the Middle East as a field archaeologist until the outbreak of World War I, when he was co-opted by the British Military Intelligence - archaeology was a smokescreen - to make a military survey of Negev Desert. The Negev was of strategic importance, as it would have to be crossed by any Turkish army attacking Egypt in the event of war. The British Military desperately needed updated maps of the area with special attention to features of military relevance. Our Lawrence was a spy - a glorified spy, who will be remembered for having written a memorable autobiography. The Balfour Declaration' unfolds the plot hatched by Britain and France to achieve their objectives in the Middle East. By 1916 the two countries had reached a secret accord to carve up most of the Ottoman Empire between themselves. Britain would dominate Iraq; France would control Syria. Jonathan Schneer describes, with great detail, how the sharp worsening of the war situation prompted the Welsh wizard, Lloyd George (the British prime minister) to muster the support of world Jewry. His minister at the foreign office is quoted as saying, "I do not think it is easy to exaggerate the international power of the Jews". Nobody, says Schneer, appreciated the magic of the Jewish return to Zion more vividly than Lloyd George. He grasped the advantage of creating an outpost of the British Empire peopled by Jewish colonists to guard the Suez Canal. It is a remarkably interesting account of Imperialistic shenanigans.

US IMPERIALISM

(From an article by Dave Lindorff)

There was a truly bizarre and telling paragraph at the end of a Wall Street Journal news report on Pakistan's demand that the US bring home hundreds of CIA and Special Forces personnel operating undercover in that country, and that it halt the drone strikes in the border regions abutting Afghanistan, which have been killing countless civilian men, women and children.

Reporters Adam Entous and Matthew Rosenberg, with no sense of irony, wrote: "The US hasn't committed to adjusting the drone program in response to Pakistan's request. The CIA operates covertly, meaning the program doesn't require Islamabad's support, under US law. Some officials say the CIA operates with relative autonomy in the tribal areas. They played down the level of support they now receive from Pakistan."

Earlier in the story, in fact in the lead, the article states that Pakistan has 'privately demanded' that the CIA halt the drone strikes and pull out most of the CIA and special forces personnel operating in the country. But by the end of the article, we learn that the country is 'requesting' a halt to attacks by the US on its own territory and people. But odder is this notion that because the CIA is a covert agency, its operations don't need Pakistan's support under US law.

Excuse me for asking, but what exactly does US law have to do with whether or not the CIA needs another government's support for it to operate in that country legally? Somehow we're at a point where even journalists and editors in the US accept without question the notion that the US is somehow free to run military operations anywhere it wants, to kill civilians with impunity, and to ignore demands not just of foreign governments but of the people of entire nations, at will, and that the issue is not whether CIA and special forces activity in a foreign country is legal in that country, but whether it is

legal "under US law." This is the definition of imperialism. It's what I remember reading about how the Roman Legions behaved in the lands they occupied.

This whole sordid tale in Pakistan came to light because of the outrageous actions of one CIA operative, Raymond Davis, who was arrested and charged with two murders after he slaughtered two young men, apparently operatives of Pakistan's ISI, on a busy Lahore boulevard.

For all the US hyperventilating against Shariah law in Muslim countries, it was by applying Pakistan's Shariah Law on the use of death payments to victims' families that the US got Davis sprung.

But he was not freed before virtually everyone in Pakistan had begun calling for his trial and execution, and not before it became clear that he, and the rest of the US spy army in Pakistan, was actually involved in subverting civil authority in that country. There will eventually come a day of reckoning for this kind of imperial over-reaching.

The US is losing its war in Afghanistan, largely because its imperial legions treat the whole Afghan population either as the enemy, or as obstacles in the way of its killing machine. Already the US is finally being pushed out of Iraq (another war lost). And things aren't looking that great even for America's latest imperial adventure in the little country of Libya. In fact, as our vast and unprecedentedly expensive military bankrupts the nation, we may someday even find our own country being overrun by the armed agents of other lands, with their robotic aircraft bombing our helpless citizenry. When it does finally come to pass, we will have only our own imperial hubris to blame.

Courtesy: www.counterpunch.org

'RUBYGATE SCANDAL' HAUNTS SILVIO BERLUSCONI, THE ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER

ROME: Italian magistrates opened an enquiry into the relationship between Silvio Berlusconi and a teenage girl as the prime minister was still reeling from a court ruling partially stripping him of political immunity.

The probe will consider whether Berlusconi had sexual relations with the girl named Ruby between February and May 2010, when she was still a minor, the public prosecutor's office said in a statement.

Berlusconi will also be investigated for allegedly abusing his position of power on a night in May when, he told police in Milan to free Ruby after she had been picked up for an alleged theft.

The scandal has been dubbed "Rubygate" by the Italian media. The *Corriere della Sera* daily said the prime minister attempted "to hide the fact that he was a client of an underage prostitute over several weekends at Arcore, his residence near Milan."

He wanted to ensure immunity for himself and prevent the details of parties in his home being revealed, it said. ANSA news agency meanwhile said Berlusconi had been summoned to appear before a court, without giving a date.

The 72-year-old media mogul, a notorious womanizer, admits that he is "no saint".

Ruby, who turned 18 in November, claims she has been to parties in the prime minister's villa near Milan also denies having sex with Berlusconi.

Interviewed by the *Repubblica* daily, the

Moroccan girl said she had been to Arcore just three times for "normal dinners" and thought the prime minister was "lonely and unhappy".

The billionaire prime minister is already under scrutiny for organizing parties with young women who are allegedly paid 5,000 euros (7,000 dollars) for the evening, according to media reports. Italy's top court opened the way for corruption trials involving Berlusconi to resume after modifying a temporary immunity law that has shielded him.

Before the enquiry was announced, Berlusconi had said he was a victim of "political persecution on the part of left-wing magistrates". (AFP)

Editor's notes: Promiscuous sex is a hall mark of the western European_ American society but they still criticizing people in the public eye when they are found out doing it. It is the schizophrenia of west. When they adopt a free wheeling mixed society where imbibing, alcohol, dancing, dating and freedom of flirtation and sex is sacrosanct then why they object when this is done by notable people in the government, sports etc? If they want these notables and the people in general to remain chaste they should adopt Islamic moral and social values of separate areas for men and women in social get together and avoidance of addiction substances, as well as flirting and sex; also adultery should have a heavy penalty.

CAUSE-SPECIFIC CARDIOVASCULAR RISK ASSOCIATED WITH NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS AMONG HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS

Fosbøl, EL et al _ Circ Cardiovasc Qual Outcomes 2010

Use of diclofenac (Cataflam, Dyclo, Voltaren) is associated with 91% increase in the relative risk of a fatal heart attack or stroke in healthy adults, and the risk was greater at higher doses.

Based on registry data from more than a million users of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) from 1997 through 2005, the two NSAIDs with the greatest increased risk of cardiovascular events were diclofenac and rofecoxib (Vioxx), which was withdrawn from the market in September 2004.

The NSAID with the least cardiovascular risk was naproxen (Aleve, Naprosyn), according to the analysis, and was pointed out that diclofenac has a "high COX-2 inhibiting selectivity" making it similar to rofecoxib, which was a COX-2 inhibitor. The analysis calculated cardiovascular risk for diclofenac, rofecoxib, celecoxib (Celebrex), ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), and naproxen. For celecoxib, the only selective COX-2 inhibitor still on the market, the authors said they had no conclusive results, but they added that their "results are based on few events (especially in high doses) and showed a positive trend toward increased cardiovascular risk."

From a clinical standpoint, they pointed out that celecoxib was the only NSAID studied "that does not carry excess risk of bleeding."

Although the authors calculated an increase in relative risk, the absolute number of cardiovascular deaths was small -- 769 over the eight-year study period or 0.075% of the total population. More worrying is the fact that the results showed a dose-dependent relationship

because diclofenac more often is used in high doses compared with the other drugs.

Jerry Avorn, MD, of Harvard, pointed out that the Danish registry study is the latest in a decade-long series of studies all of which reached the same conclusion -- naproxen is the safest NSAID.

Curt D. Furberg, MD, PhD, of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., said there was little question that naproxen is safest NSAID. "All others may cause harm, especially diclofenac."

Avorn said there really is no need for more of these me-too studies, but what is needed is for doctors to "get the word out to patients and doctors about such findings, which those of us who study drug safety have known about for years."

Although rofecoxib was pulled from the market, "diclofenac is still in widespread use, for no good reason.

Among the findings:

- The relative risk of cardiovascular death was 1.91 with diclofenac (95% CI 1.62 to 2.42).
- Use of rofecoxib was associated with a 66% increase in risk of cardiovascular death (OR 1.62, 95% CI 1.06 to 2.59).
- Both rofecoxib and diclofenac had a "dose-dependent increase in risk."
- Ibuprofen use was associated with a 29% increase in relative risk of fatal or nonfatal stroke (OR 1.29, 95% CI 1.02 to 1.63).
- No increased risk was observed with naproxen use (OR 0.84, 95% CI 0.50 to 1.42).

DOCUMENTARIES ABOUT HOW MUSLIMS HELPED EUROPEAN RENAISSANCE

(From an article by Ateeb Gul in the News)

In fact it has now been demonstrated by many mainstream academics that the very roots of the Renaissance lay in the medieval world of Islam. And here we see the contemporary relevance of this glorious phase of Islamic intellectual history - relevant not only to the Muslims but rather to the whole world, especially the Western world. Perhaps this is why many international media houses have comparatively recently been involved in the production of documentaries focusing on this specific aspect of Islamic history - its massive contribution to Europe that played a central role in the occurrence of the European Renaissance. Assuming that many among us would already be familiar with the relatively well-known three-part PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) documentary entitled *Islam: Empire of Faith*, it is important to discuss a few documentaries that focus on the Islamic roots of Europe.

Bettany Hughes is a name recognized in the media as well as in the academia. Her presentation of the history of al-Andalus (Muslim Spain) is well researched and passionate in the Channel 4 documentary entitled *When the Moors Ruled in Europe*. After having visited many historical places in modern day Spain and having interviewed many experts in the field, she has introduced the viewer to an account of the centuries when Spain was ruled by Muslims. Hughes takes the viewer on a journey where we learn how the modern

world has been shaped massively by this grand historical phenomenon called al-Andalus. Science and Islam (al-'ilm wa al-Islam) is perhaps one of the best-presented documentaries that I have seen. Produced by BBC Four and presented by University of Surrey's Dr Jim al-Khalili, it is an account of the career of the scientific enterprise throughout the Islamic civilization - from the classical period till today. Divided into three parts; 'The Language of Science', 'The Empire of Reason' and 'The Power of Doubt', this documentary traces the history of science in the Islamic world. Focusing on almost all aspects of this history, considerable weight has been given to astronomy in medieval Islam that truly set the stage for the later Scientific Revolution in Europe.

Another documentary entitled *An Islamic History of Europe*, produced by BBC Four and presented by Rageh Omaar does succeed in showing the various strands of the medieval Islamic civilization that, through major European cities such as Granada and Sicily, shaped the modern world.

Another production, by KPBS, which is related to PBS in the United States, is entitled *Cities of Light: The Rise and Fall of Islamic Spain*. This documentary film re-creates the entire political and regional history of modern day Spain from the time when the young Tariq bin Ziyad attacked Gibraltar till the time when the armies of the Catholic monarchs King Ferdinand-II and Queen Isabella-I reclaimed it for Christian

Europe. Al-Andalus was a haven for religious diversity in very real terms. Muslims, Christians and Jews enjoyed the luxury of inter-religious harmony which we hope that we could enjoy today. These centuries of Islamic Spain not only provide to us a model of how to coexist peacefully, they also have another significant factor attached to them - the way Islamic Spain helped kick-start the progress that was later to grow into the European Renaissance. In fact, while talking about the role of the Christo-Judaic-Islamic milieu in Islamic Spain, the narrator of *Cities of Light* states, "here were the very seeds of the Renaissance".

On a relatively lighter note, *What the Ancients Did For Us: The Islamic World*, another BBC production, does justice to the overall notion that Islamic scientists contributed immensely to both science and technology of that time. The presenters are candid in acknowledging the fact that historically speaking, it was with the positive contributions of the medieval Islamic world that Europe later saw the emergence of the modern world. One must notice that many of these documentaries deal directly and exclusively with the Islamic roots of the West - Europe to be more precise. And the sources mentioned in most of these documentaries involve leading academics in this field.

ABBOTT PULLS MERIDIA FROM MARKET

By Emily P. Walker, Washington Correspondent, MedPage Today

The maker of the obesity drug sibutramine (Meridia) has voluntarily agreed to remove it from the U.S. market because of increased risk of stroke and MI, the FDA announced.

For the estimated 100,000 overweight and obese patients currently taking Abbott's sibutramine the FDA had this message: Stop taking it, and consult your doctor about a new weight loss plan.

The European Union discontinued use of all products containing sibutramine in January (2010).

Those side effects were uncovered in a six-year-long controlled trial, the Sibutramine Cardiovascular Outcomes (SCOUT) trial, which found that patients taking sibutramine had a 16% increased risk of a cardiovascular event compared with those who took a placebo (95% CI 1.03 to 1.31, P=0.02).

Patients taking sibutramine lost about 2.5% more weight after 60 months than patients taking placebo.

In light of early findings from SCOUT, Abbott agreed in January of this year to add a warning to the label that the drug should not be taken by patients with a history of cardiovascular disease.

Other diet products on the market -- some available without a prescription -- contain sibutramine. The FDA warned consumers against using one of those products -- a supplement called Slimming Beauty Bitter Orange Slimming Capsules. The capsules are sold over the Internet and are "falsely labeled as 100% herbal."

Editor's notes: In Pakistan this medicine is sold under the name of Reductil, Nobese and Obesib etc.

BOLLYWOOD TAKES ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN A NEW FILM

(An article from The News)

Bollywood is tackling the subject of sexual harassment in the workplace, which campaigners say is increasingly becoming an issue as traditional gender roles change in modern urban India.

"Hello Darling", which was released on Friday, is inspired by the 1980 Hollywood comedy "Nine To Five" in which Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton seek to get even with their arrogant and sexist male boss.

The Hindi-language film - the latest to address more contemporary themes rather than the traditional Bollywood song and dance love story extravaganzas - stars Eesha Kopkikhar, Celina Jaitley, Gul Panaag and Jaaved Jaffrey.

"'Hello Darling' gives a very serious message to society," said Kopkikhar. "There are some men in the corporate world who are always on the lookout to flirt with women. (1) "The film speaks about such men and how women have to be careful and deal with them."

Sexual harassment - or "Eve teasing" as it is called in India - is a growing problem, as more women leave the home to go out to work, said Sudha Sundaraman, general secretary of the All India Democratic Women's Association.

But she said unwanted sexual comments, contact or advances were not just confined to traditionally male-dominated offices. They also happened in the "unorganised sector", where many women do jobs such as low-paid domestic work.

And women working often unsociable hours

in so-called "sunrise" sectors such as call centres or the IT industry were vulnerable to sexual harassment or exploitation, she added. (2)

"Attitudes are still very patriarchal," she told AFP. "There's a strong sense that women who are working or single in any of these institutions are somehow accessible. That also leads to sexual harassment." (3)

The latest available government statistics indicate that crimes against women in India are increasing, with more than 12,000 cases of sexual harassment and over 40,000 of molestation recorded in 2008.

Indian field hockey was rocked last month by claims that the male coach of the women's national team sexually harassed an unidentified player and the side's video analyst consorted with prostitutes while on tour. (4)

The coach resigned, denying the charges, while the video analyst was suspended. Sexual harassment lawsuits have also been filed against top Indian executives at the country's second-largest software exporter Infosys and the publisher Penguin, leading to out-of-court settlements.

But most victims are thought to refrain from reporting incidents, due to the social stigma, attitudes towards complaints - and the lack of faith in available remedies. The widely reported cases involving Infosys and Penguin were brought in the United States and Canada.

Gender equality and the right to live in dignity

are enshrined in India's constitution but the country has no specific law to deal with sexual harassment in the workplace.

The Supreme Court issued guidelines after a landmark case in 1997 for all companies to take appropriate steps to prevent sexual harassment as well as investigate any complaints and take appropriate action. But the guidelines are not mandatory, said Sundaraman, who has been pushing for a law to be passed, allowing the practice to continue virtually unchecked.

In the meantime, some Indian women are fighting back at the gropers and the touchers by enrolling in self-defence classes. (5)

"These programmes do not solve the main problem," Kalpana Viswanath, a researcher at women's rights group Jagori, told AFP. "Women can learn but it is the men who really need lessons on how to behave." (6)AFP

Editorial foot notes:

- (1) What man doesn't want to flirt with a woman, especially if she is seductive.
- (2) Women workers should be provided security and proper working hours, better still their male family members should be provided with jobs so that they can finance the whole family. For those women who don't have male relatives to finance them proper secure transport should be provided.
- (3) However, in socially mixed societies, where women seek out men as much as men seek women for enjoyment and sometimes marriages, women may not only indirectly seduce but directly encourage some men in their environment. Some of these mutual contacts may lead to "friendships" or even marriage, but those that won't work out may be labeled

as "sexual harassment."

- (4) What would one expect when a female team is put under the tutelage of a male coach. Moreover 'consorting' with a 'prostitute' or 'girl friend' is taboo only for the old fashioned religious people. Why complain?
- (5) What if they encounter men who have had a similar training.
- (6) May be the Creator should be advised not to produce such strong sex drives in humans, specially men.

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PROTECTING FROM RAPE

By Todd Neale (Medpage)

This morning, I was scanning the news headlines as I do every morning, and one on CNN.com caught my eye: "South African doctor invents female condoms with 'teeth' to fight rape."

I clicked on the story and found a description of Rape-aXe, a female condom that literally has teeth in the form of hooks lining the inside. The website for the device describes the teeth inside the condom as "razor-sharp barbs." Once it takes hold of the rapist's penis, only a doctor can remove it, most likely only after police have been called, which should clearly deter such a crime in the first place.

As the developer of the device, Dr. Sonnet Ehlers, put it in the CNN article: "It hurts, he cannot pee and walk when it's on. If he tries to remove it, it will clasp even tighter ... however, it doesn't break the skin, and there's no danger of fluid exposure."

In addition to stopping the attack, the condom will also protect the woman from contracting a sexually transmitted disease.

Originally launched in 2005, Rape-aXe is being distributed free of charge to 30,000 women in South Africa during the World Cup. After the trial period, it will cost about \$2.

Ehlers was quoted as saying that she envisioned women wearing the protective condoms when going on a blind date or to an area in which they aren't comfortable.

While the effort to stop the despicable act of rape is commendable, I can't help but wonder whether such a device would actually be effective. Attacks on women, and resulting psychological trauma, would still occur, as a rapist wouldn't know a woman was wearing the toothed condom until the pain set in.

Also, as Victoria Kajja, a fellow for the CDC in Uganda, put it in the CNN article, the device represents a form of enslavement for the

women using it, providing only a false sense of security.

"The fears surrounding the victim, the act of wearing the condom in anticipation of being assaulted all represent enslavement that no women should be subjected to," she said.

As Kajja acknowledged, however, any rapist snared with a Rape-aXe is not going to get away with his crime, as often occurs in most African countries, according to CNN.

Although I'm skeptical that such a device would put a dent in the rate of rapes in South Africa, which is startling (28% of men reported raping a girl or woman according to a study by Human Rights Watch), or elsewhere, it's certainly better than another option noted in the article -- razor blades wrapped in sponges and inserted into the vagina. Clearly, something needs to be done when women are driven to such extreme measures, and Ehlers should be given credit for that. "Yes, my device may be medieval, but it's for a medieval deed that has been around for decades," Ehlers said in the CNN article. "I believe something's got to be done ... and this will make some men rethink before they assault a woman."

Editor's notes: Islam has the best answer. Don't go on dates- blind or otherwise. Meet your future spouse in a chaperoned safe place. Avoid wearing clothes that seduce the opposite sex. In social activities men and women should be separate. Make marriage and divorce easy and inexpensive. Avoid making and showing sexy movies and TV shows, as well as seductive cat walks. Provide an escort for women whenever possible.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/tbprint.cfm?tbid=20799>

BMJ REVEALS MONEY TRAIL BEHIND MMR-AUTISM CLAIM

By John Gever - MedPage Today

Before The Lancet published the now-discredited 1998 paper alluding to a link between childhood vaccines and autism, its main author had secret business deals aimed at exploiting the public fears that his work would create, the BMJ charged.

In the second of a three-part series in the BMJ, journalist Brian Deer described patent filings and startup companies that Andrew Wakefield, MBBS, established before publishing the Lancet study of 12 children who supposedly developed gastrointestinal and behavioral abnormalities soon after measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccination.

The article also provided additional details of Wakefield's relationship with a law firm that was suing vaccine manufacturers, which Deer had reported previously.

In an opening salvo published last week in BMJ, Deer -- who has been investigating Wakefield's claims since 2004 for the Times of London and British television as well as for BMJ -- compared the children's descriptions in the 1998 Lancet paper with their original medical records and information provided by their caregivers.

The findings were so discrepant, according to Deer and BMJ editor Fiona Godlee, MB, BChir, BSc, that Wakefield must have committed deliberate fraud. The Lancet formally retracted the paper last year, saying that "several elements ... are incorrect."

Deer's second installment in the BMJ exposé suggested that the fraud was part of a money-making scheme, under which he and

certain associates -- including the father of one of the 12 children in the Lancet paper -- would sell diagnostic tests for vaccine-induced diseases as well as "safe" vaccines and therapies based on "transfer factor."

Prospectuses for these ventures distributed to potential investors promised profits in the tens of millions of dollars, Deer found.

According to one of these documents, "It is estimated that the initial market for the diagnostic will be litigation driven testing of patients with AE [autistic enterocolitis] from both the UK and the USA." Within three years of startup, the document continued, revenues of more than \$40 million could be expected.

Also in on the deal, at least initially, Deer found, was Wakefield's employer, the Royal Free and University College Medical School in London.

Wakefield was already a media celebrity in Britain after he had gone on television to claim an association between MMR vaccines and Crohn's disease. In fact, the research that ended up as the 1998 Lancet paper had started out as an effort to identify children with inflammatory bowel disease following vaccination.

When this proved to be impossible, Wakefield called the children's condition "autistic enterocolitis" -- although Deer charged that even that was largely a fabrication.

The Royal Free agreed to act as a conduit for

payments from Richard Barr, the plaintiffs' lawyer in the vaccine litigation, which helped fund the research leading to the Lancet paper and subsequent studies that Wakefield undertook.

According to Deer, Barr's firm had fronted Wakefield about \$80,000 to support his initial research. Wakefield eventually took a total of more than \$650,000 from the firm, the later money coming from legal settlements with vaccine makers.

The Royal Free also agreed to partner with Wakefield in the diagnostic, therapeutic, and vaccine ventures, under option arrangements that it never exercised.

Wakefield's relationships with the law firm and his other business enterprises were not disclosed in the 1998 Lancet paper, the press conference that accompanied it, or anywhere else until Deer uncovered them.

According to Deer, the whole deal fell apart in 1999 when the Royal Free brought in a new head of medicine, Mark Pepys, MD, PhD, who was skeptical of Wakefield's research and the proposed commercial ventures.

At Pepys's urging, the school ordered Wakefield to publish the scientific results that were supposed to power the startup companies. When he had made no move to do so after nearly two years, "we paid him to go away," Deer quoted Pepys as saying.

"In October 2001, Wakefield was shown the door," Deer wrote. "As I understand it, he got two years' money, a statement clearing him of misconduct, the intellectual property for £10 (\$16), uncollected, and a gag on Royal Free comment."

But although the Royal Free had severed its ties with Wakefield, it still tried to thwart Deer's efforts to follow the money trail back to the school, he charged. He wrote that it

took three years of freedom-of-information requests and a government order before he was allowed to see the contracts and memoranda related to the business deals.

Wakefield, who emigrated to the U.S. after his departure from the Royal Free, could not be reached for comment. Last week, in an interview with CNN, he denied fabricating data and insisted his research was sound.

BMJ plans to publish the final part of Deer's investigation next week.

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"KILLER" ALLEGES MQM ORDERED KILLINGS

(From an article by Ansar Abbasi in the News)

One of the most dangerous alleged target killers, who confessed to have killed many, including police officers in Karachi, has reportedly claimed his association with the Muttahida Qaumi Movement's "militant wing", and has named a person in London as the contact person for many party militants. He further said that Ajmal Pahari was one of the MQM's men.

Arrested and interrogated in 2010 the accused target killer, Muhammad Ishtiaq, alias Salman, alias Police Wala, confessed before the Joint Interrogation Team comprising representatives of the ISI, IB, Rangers, CID, Sindh Police and Special Branch, as reported in an official document, that Ajmal Pahari (who was arrested recently in Karachi and is alleged to have been involved in the killing of 100 people) also belongs to the MQM.

The report quoted him as saying: "Ishtiaq further revealed that many of the militants were in direct contact with a person in London. For instance, Ajmal Pahari and Saeed Bharam had reportedly been carrying out killings on his orders.

Ishtiaq's background and his confession, as reflected in the official report, is simply shocking so it is being reproduced:

"AFFILIATION WITH MQM (A) MILITANT WING: He joined MQM (A) as a worker in

1996/97 in Liaquatabad sector. He was arrested in 1997 by Azizabad police after he brandished a weapon in front of the Golden Pan Shop. After receiving permission from Shoaib Bukhari, the SHO registered a case u/s 13-d of the Arms Ordinance against Ishtiaq. During his detention in jail, he met all activists/terrorists of MQM (A) who were arrested during the operation period.

"After release from Jail, he met with Fahim alias Kankata, who motivated him to join the militant wing of MQM (A) in 1997. As he had been dismissed from service, he travelled to South Africa in October 1997 and stayed there for nine months. After returning in August 1998, he was arrested during the operation that began after the murder of Hakim Said in October 1998. He was challanned in five murder cases. He was released from jail after two years and reinstated in service in 2003, on the recommendation of Shoaib Bukhari. He remained inactive in the party for the next 4/5 years.

"Two and a half years ago, Adeel bhai came from London and contacted him. Adeel bhai knew him because he had worked with Adeel in South Africa. Adeel bhai assigned him a new task of selecting militants for establishing a new "set-up" for the party. "Set Up" is the code for establishing a new killing

team.

"In this connection, he met Ubaid K-2, but Ubaid K-2 told him that he was already working with another set-up, i.e. that of Ajmal Pahari, but he recommended Rafay, (Rafay, Ubaid's friend). Ishtiaq introduced Rafay to Adeel at 5/A2, New Karachi. Adeel gave him permission for making a team and Rafay's team included Danish, Faisal, Irfan alias Irfi, and Nomi. After 10 days of that meeting, Rafay brought his team to meet Adeel. Then Adeel directed him to manage the team on his behalf, as he did not want direct contact with the team members. One year after this, Adeel also gave him the responsibility for managing two other teams, that of Muhammed bhai alias Hasan in Landhi, and Sultan bhai in Orangi. Jehangir Babu, who runs a team in Korangi, also reports to him from time to time.

"DISCLOSURE/INFORMATION: He was arrested in 1997, in PS Azizabad Karachi for keeping illicit 30 bore weapon, a case was registered u/s 13-D A.O. and he was jailed for three months.

"Then he went to South Africa with Asif Dadan and Nasim alias Nasim Behari (Liaquatabad wala) and got asylum in South Africa. He was attached with MQM (A) group in South Africa. Raza bhai of New Karachi Sector was the overall In-charge of South Africa MQM (A) Group. Approximately, after 9-10 months, he returned to Pakistan with Asif Bhai. On his return, he once again became active in the Liaquatabad Sector and was arrested after one year in 1999. He was challanned in seven cases, including the murder of Haqiqi workers; the murder of a police

head constable; and the brother of Shera bhai, who was a party worker. He was jailed for two years. He was released on bail from the ADJ Central in 2001.

"Again, he joined the Liaquatabad sector and worked for the party. In 2003, Shoaib Bukhari helped him to get reinstated in police service in Special Branch.

"ATTACK ON SSP MUHAMMAD ASLAM KHAN (CASE FIR NO. 07/2010 U/S PS GIZRRI, CLIFTON TOWN, KARACHI): Adeel Bhai alias Agha told him that Shakeel Umar, who was at the time commanding all MQM militants in the city, had given the task to the team of Ajmal Pahari for assassination of SSP Muhammad Aslam Khan. This team carried out attack on SSP Muhammad Aslam Khan at the Punjab Chowrangi, PS Gizri, in January 2006 in which two gunmen of the SSP were killed.

"DSP (retired) RAHEEM BANGASH CASE: (CASE FIR NO. 517/2010 U/S 302/34 PPC PS METHADAR, SADDAR TOWN, KARACHI: Approximately, 18 months earlier, at Sector 5-A 1/2 unit office, he met with Adeel bhai and Rafay. He stood outside the Uni Plaza while the team went upstairs, and followed Bangash down. They signalled to him to confirm that they had identified the right person, and he confirmed that it was indeed Raheem Bangash.

"SI SAJID MURDER CASE: Jehangir Babu came to see Adeel and asked him for permission to kill SI Sajid, who lived in Korangi. Adeel informed him that Jehangir had asked for permission due to some personal dispute, as Sajid had never served in the operation against MQM. Then about 15 days after this, SI Sajid was murdered and Jehangir gave a compliance report to

Ishtiaq.

"MURDER OF INSPECTOR NASIR UL HASSAN (S.H.O BRIGADE PS).

Adeel bhai met Rafay and Ishtiaq in Gol Market and planned to kill Inspector Nasir Ul Hassan. At the time of Nasir ul Hassan's killing, Ubaid called him and informed him that the task had been completed.

"MURDER OF DSP NAWAZ RANJHA (CASE FIR NO. 929/2010 U/S 302/324/353/427/34 PPC, 7 ATA PS PARADE, SADDAR TOWN KARACHI: Two years ago, Iffi's brother was killed in an incident in Jamshed Quarters PS. Iffi suspected that his brother was murdered and the incident had been covered up by the local police, specifically DSP Nawaz Ranjha, who was the SPO at the time.

But Rafay and Iffi insisted. On the night when DSP Nawaz Ranjha was murdered, half an hour later Rafay called me and asked me if I was watching TV, because there was a very good match on TV. (He was speaking the code about the breaking news of Ranjha's murder). Ishtiaq said yes, and what had happened was good. Then he hung up the phone. Next day, Adeel bhai called me and asked me in code words: who had done this job? (Yeh Garhi Kisne Khareedi?).

"After a few days, Adeel Bhai called me at Nazimabad marriage hall lane and told me that he will take care of this mistake. Siddique bhai was also there and he scolded Adeel Bhai and threatened him that he would be sent back to London if he could not manage his teams. Adeel bhai told Siddique bhai that he had told Rafay only to do the job after verifying the facts about Ranjha and only after checking with Salman bhai (Ishtiaq's party name) first. I

denied that Rafay had ever asked my permission.

"TARGET KILLING SPREE ONE AND A HALF MONTHS BEFORE THE MURDER OF RAZA HYDER, MPA: **He disclosed that one and a half months before the murder of MQM MPA Raza Hyder, Adeel bhai told him to give instructions to all this teams to target office bearers of ANP. Adeel bhai said that these orders had come from above.** Ishtiaq asked his teams accordingly, but in that period, they were unable to hit any ANP target. **However, dozens of ordinary Pathans were killed,** and in fact, Sultan asked him why he had restricted their targets to ANP office bearers when everyone else was targeting whomever he wished. Sultan said that had he been allowed to do the same, he would have gotten dozens of targets. **Later, Adeel Bhai told him that his people had been responsible for at least 21-22 murders. Ishtiaq further disclosed that his teams had not taken part in any of the target killings that had occurred after the murder of MPA Raza Hyder, and that those killings had been conducted by the unit and sector level vigilance committees.**

STRUCTURE OF MQM KILLING TEAMS:

Ishtiaq disclosed that there were several "Set Ups" working in Karachi, carrying out target killings. Initially, all killing teams in Karachi were centralised under Shakeel Omar. Later, when Shakeel Omar got heavily involved in land grabbing and corruption activities in Surjani Town, he was set aside and Ajmal Pahari (Party name Adnan) and Saeed Bharam (Party name Ahmed) were given the responsibility. But they too got involved in corruption activities

and so vigilance committees were created at the unit and sector level, which would serve as armed wings. But they too grew out of control.

Therefore, finally this new set-up under Adeel bhai and Siddique bhai was formed. These were mostly militants who were being run by South Africa unit. Currently, Qamar Teddy and Raza Bhai of New Karachi are in-charge in South Africa, and Adeel bhai and Siddique bhai were in touch with these individuals, but were also in touch with London, where Anis Qaimkhani was in-charge of the killing teams.

Ishtiaq further revealed that many of the militants were in direct contact with London. For instance, Ajmal Pahari and Saeed Bharam had reportedly been carrying out killings on their orders.

OTHER KILLINGS:

On 01-04-1997, accused Ishtiaq along with his accomplices, targeted/killed Muhammad Ismail in the area of PS North Nazimabd. On 15-06-1998, accused Ishtiaq, along with his accomplices, targeted/killed Sharif Khan in the area of PS North Nazimabad.

On 24-06-1998, accused Ishtiaq along with his accomplices, targeted/killed ASI Maqsood, who was posted in East Zone, Karachi, in the area of PS North Nazimabad. On 03-07-1997, accused Ishtiaq, along with his accomplices, targeted/killed Naseem Akhter, s/o Muhammad Ali, in the area of PS Sharifabad. FIR No. 272/97 u/s 302 PPC was registered at PS Sharifabad Karachi.

On 23-06-1995, accused Ishtiaq, along with his accomplices, targeted/killed Sher Muhammad in the area of PS Sharifabad. FIR No. 166/95 u/s 302/324/34 PPC was registered at PS Sharifabad Karachi.

On 24-06-1998, accused Ishtiaq along with his accomplices, targeted/killed Jahangir Mirza in the area of PS North Nazimabad.

INFORMATION: Adeel alias Agha is in-charge of several target-killing teams of MQM (A) group. Under his supervision, he (Ishtiaq Police Wala) alias Salman operate the following teams:

1. Rafay of Liaquatabad sector team.
 2. Muhammad of Landhi sector team.
 3. Sultan of Orangi sector team.
 4. Occasionally, Jehangir Babu of Korangi.
- All targets were given to the teams by Ishtiaq Police Wala, who also received compliance reports from the teams and passed on the information to Adeel alias Aga Murtaza.

Presently, the MQM high command from London has reportedly ordered all militants to target ANP office bearers and MQM (H) and PPI activists/workers in Karachi.

Ishtiaq Police Wala further disclosed that every sector of MQM (A) has its own vigilance team for all terrorist activities in their respective areas.

Editor's notes: Many reports of the army and other investigating agencies have earlier unearthed similar alleged crimes of the M.Q.M but time and again the reports have been suppressed when the assembly members of M.Q.M have been needed to prop up the governments. Unless and until this killer mafia is brought to book Karachi (and because of this city the whole of Pakistan) cannot be turned into a law abiding city and the people will continue to be murdered and the economy will also suffer as a result.

ATTENTION GPS: PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTATION BY THE PHONE

Karachi Psychiatric Hospital was established in 1970, and today (2010) has branches in North Nazimabad, Nazimabad and Quaidabad in Karachi as well as a branch in Latifabad, Hyderabad. More than 200 patients come to our hospital daily and the average number of in-patients is one hundred and fifty (150). About 30 professionals, including psychiatrists, graduate doctors, psychologists and social therapists work in the hospital to treat the patients. The paramedical and other staff members are almost three hundred (300). Since there are less than four hundred (400) psychiatrists for the whole country of sixteen crore people we feel the immediate need to extend our psychiatric expertise to other cities and villages without actually going there. This we plan to do with the cooperation of the general practitioners and other doctors interested in providing proper treatment to psychiatric patients. We have a sliding scale of fees which people of various financial status can afford, and we will work out a system of sharing of fees between Karachi psychiatric hospital and the cooperating doctors.

To provide some training to doctors we will send them the Monthly Karachi Psychiatric Hospital Bulletin as well as booklets on the common psychiatric illnesses. We will also welcome those doctors who can find some time to come to our hospital in Karachi. Of course the phone can be used for this purpose also. At places that have facilities can also install a video phone. We already have one and thus the patient and the therapists will not only be able to talk to each other but also see each other, which helps in

diagnosis and treatment. We also have e-mail and DSL services and these can improve our communication further. This is a preliminary communication and if we feel the need we can give further information. You can also contact us for any information you need. We may remind you that our hospital has psychiatrists and their assistants on duty day and night, as well as during Sundays and other holidays, so you can contact us whenever there is a need.

For further details please contact Executive Director,
Karachi Psychiatric Hospital
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STANDPHARM On the *Move...* For Health

LETTER**Dr. Inyat Rasool Baloch (M.B.B.S.)**

What are the effects of "Gutka" on the sex of men?

How can we treat this addiction?

What are the withdrawal effects?

ANSWER**Dr. Syed Mubin Akhtar**

Gutka consists mainly of tobacco and beetle nuts, although several other things are said to be mixed in it including blood and other narcotics according to some.

The bad effects are similar to smoking tobacco including cancer, heart disease, mouth and dental problems. Cancer of the mouth and throat is much more in those who take Gutka as well as beetle leaves, nuts and oral tobacco. Some studies also point to reduced sexual performance.

If an addict misses a dose of the Gutka or oral tobacco in beetle leaves he becomes listless, restless, develop anxiety and a bad taste in the mouth. Treatment is the same as with any addiction specially tobacco addiction. The patient should be diagnosed as an addict and this should be recorded in his chart to begin with.

He should be told about all the dangers of this habit and persuaded to set a quit date. If he agrees than he can be helped with the treatment available which requires nicotine replacement in the form of nicotine gum or nicotine plaster.

Additionally he may be given one of the following medicines to relieve the withdrawal symptoms:

1. Sensival (Nortriptyline)
2. Zylexx (Bupropion)
3. Chantrix (Varenicline)

If the patient doesn't agree to quit right away he should be again persuaded to do it at intervals of six month to a year. Moreover counseling is necessary to help with his psychological and social problems.

LETTER**Dr. Abdul Waheed Surahio****Senior Demonstrator Pathology****Department of Pathology****Chandki Medical College, Larkana.**

I hope you will find my letter in a good mood and good health. As I got your psychiatric bulletin especially of December 2010. I appreciate all your articles and express my opinion that it is worth while to read.

Kindly send me this bulletin regularly and also previous publications if available.

I also need the article regarding "Mental Illness- A slide presentation by

Dr. Syed Mubin Akhtar if, this is published.

Thank you sir

ANSWER**Dr. Syed Mubin Akhtar**

Dear Dr. Surahio, thank you for your kind letter.

We shall send to you the two issues which contain the matter you want. Please let us know if they are sufficient.

We are also sending to you some back issues.

LETTER

Physiatrists are poor in investigation and they should also differentiate between organic and functional diagnosis and so should do all investigations along with C.T. Scan of Brain.

ANSWER

Dr. Syed Mubin Akhtar

Physical, specially neurological illness can occur in psychiatric patients. Sometimes the symptoms presented to a psychiatrist may be due to medical problems, specially neurological. Thus a psychiatrist should take a careful history and do a proper medical and neurological examination. If the above indicate any medical or neurological disease a thorough investigation should be undertaken. However doing all such investigations, including the C.T. Scan Brain, is not the proper approach as it may cost the patients very much and provide very few benefits. This is not practiced even in rich countries and in our poor countries it would be impossible to implement.

(ث) حیوانوں کو جنسی تعلیم کی ضرورت نہیں پڑتی مگر حیوان اپنے بچوں کے سامنے سب جنسی عمل کرتے ہیں، ان کو کوئی عطا کی غلط معلومات نہیں دیتا اور ان کے غسل، جنابت، گناہ اور ثواب کے مسائل بھی نہیں ہوتے۔

(ث) یہ کتاب پہلے پہل جنرل شرف نہیں جنرل ضیاء الحق کے دور میں چھپی تھی اور اس وقت بھی کسی عالم یا حکومتی کارندے نے کوئی اعتراض نہیں کیا بلکہ جس نے بھی یہ پڑھی اس نے بہت مفید پائی۔

(ث) میرے خیال میں خواتین پر اپنے جسم کے حصوں کو دیکھنے پر قرآن اور حدیث میں کہیں کوئی ممانعت نہیں ہے، خصوصاً جب وہاں ہواری کے لئے روئی کے پھائے (Tampon) لگانے کے لئے ہوں۔ جنسی بے راہ روی مخلوط مفسلوں، بے پردگی اور نیلی ویرٹن اور سینما میں بیہودہ پروگراموں اور ناچ گانے کے مفسلوں کی وجہ سے ہوتی ہیں۔

(ج) قرآن میں فرمایا گیا ہے "تمہاری بیویاں تمہاری کھیتیاں ہیں، تم ان میں جس طرح چاہو جاؤ"۔ (آیت ۲۲۳، پارہ بیقول) صحیح بخاری میں حضرت جابرؓ سے روایت ہے "جس طرح چاہو جاؤ یعنی لٹا کر، بٹھا کر، کھڑا کر کے"۔

(ج) بے روک ٹوک اختلاط جب بھی ہوا ہے اللہ تعالیٰ نے شدید امراض مسلط کئے ہیں۔ اگر ایک صدی سے ایڈز (AIDS) مسلط ہے تو پہلے بھی ایسے ہی موزی امراض لگ جاتے تھے۔ ان میں سے چند یعنی آئٹک (Syphilis) اور سوزاک (Gonorrhea) ایسے ہی موزی تھے جیسے آج کل ایڈز (AIDS) ہے۔ صرف پچاس سال سے ان کا علاج نکل آیا ہے تو ان کی تباہی کچھ کم ہوگئی ہے مگر ابھی بھی وہ بے لگام جنسی اخلاط کے معاشروں میں ختم نہیں ہوئی ہیں۔ ان تینوں امراض خبیثہ کے علاوہ متعدد دیگر جنسی امراض بھی ہیں جو یورپ، امریکہ اور ایسے دوسرے معاشروں میں تباہی پھیلا رہے ہیں۔

منتقل کر دیتے۔ امریکن لوگ جب وہاں پہنچے تو انہوں نے وہاں کے مقامی لوگوں کے ساتھ جنسی عمل کیا۔ مقامی لوگ اور بندوق محفوظ (Immune) تھے لیکن سفید کھال والے امریکن محفوظ (Immune) نہ رہ سکے۔ افریقہ سے امریکہ وہاں سے یورپ اور ایشیا، مملا لک میں پھیل گئی۔

ڈاکٹر مین اختر صاحب نے امریکہ ہی میں نفسیات کی تعلیم حاصل کی۔ اس کا اثر ہے کہ انہوں نے بعض شرعی حدود پر اعتراض کیا ہے۔

تبصرہ ڈاکٹر سید مین اختر

یہ ایک طویل خط ہے جو مجھے پہنچایا گیا ہے مگر انہوں نے اپنے جواب میں لکھا کہ ان کو اس کا جواب بھی پہنچایا جاتا۔ بہر حال ہو سکتا ہے کہ یہ خیالات کچھ اور لوگوں میں بھی پائے جاتے ہوں اس لئے کچھ نکات پر میرا اظہار خیال کرنا مفید ہوگا۔

(۱) لکھا گیا ہے کہ جھوک اور مٹی ایک جیسے نہیں ہوتے بلکہ جھوک پاک ہوتا ہے۔ مذکورہ کتاب کے صفحہ ۱۳۵ پر بخاری و مسلم کی مسند پر ذیل حدیث ہے جس سے معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ مٹی بھی پاک ہی ہے۔ "مٹی کپڑے پر لگ کر رنگ ہوگی فقط ل کر چھاڑنے اور صاف کرنے سے کپڑا پاک ہو جائے گا، چاہے ملنے کے بعد اس کا کچھ اثر کپڑے پر باقی ہی کیوں نہ رہ جائے۔۔۔۔۔"

(ب) امام احمد بن حنبلؒ اہل سنت کے چار مستند اماموں میں شامل ہیں اور اہل سنت کا متفقہ موقف ہے کہ چاروں اماموں کی رائے کی پیروی کی جاسکتی ہے۔ ہمارا کسی کا یہ مقام نہیں ہے کہ ان کے فتوے کو "فتویٰ غلطی" قرار دیں۔ (تفہیم القرآن - جلد ۳ - صفحات ۲۲۵-۲۲۶)

(پ) دیہات کے لڑکے لڑکیاں جالوروں کو دیکھ کر بہت کچھ سکھ لیتے ہیں مگر شہروں میں یہ تعلیم کا ذریعہ موجود نہیں ہے۔

کی لڑکیاں، بکریوں، گائیکوں کی جنسی عمل کرنا دیکھ لیتی ہیں۔ (پ)

عوام اور غریب لوگ کم عمر بچوں کو تنگا رکھتے ہیں۔ مائیں لڑکے لڑکیوں کو کم عمری میں نہلاتی دھلاتی ہیں۔ لذت کی قدرت حیوانوں کو یہ سب کتابوں اور استادوں کے بغیر کوئی سب کچھ غیر مرئی طریقے سے بتا دیتا ہے۔ (ت)

(۳) یہ کہنا کہ اس کتاب کو ہر یک اسٹال اور میڈیکل اسٹور سے مفت تقسیم کیا جائے کتنی ستم ظریفی ہے۔ شاید جنرل پرویز مشرف کی نظر سے یہ نگزری ورنہ ان کی نہ صرف یہ ہی کوشش ہوتی بلکہ وہ یہ بھی کہتے کہ معصوف کو پراکڈ آف پرفارمٹس کا تنہا بھی دے جاتے۔ (ت)

(۴) اگرچہ آپ کی کتاب میں بہت سی مفید باتیں بھی ہیں لیکن وہ تصاویر جو لوجوان لڑکیوں کو اپنی جنسی اعضاء کے اندرونی حصوں کو رائیں کھول کر اور چوڑی کر کے آنہ کے ذریعے مطالعہ کرنے کی ترغیب دیتی ہیں وہ اپنی نظر (Clitoris) کو مس کر کے صرف خود لذتی میں مبتلا کرنے والی نہیں بلکہ وہ اپنی سہیلوں سے خوب تبادلہ خیال کرینگیں، بلکہ خود لذتی سے آگے جنسی تسکین کے لئے لڑکوں کو بھی ڈھونڈ نکالیں گی اور بڑے بگلوں میں رہنے والیاں ایسی جگہیں نکال لینگیں کہ ہماری سوسائٹی میں بے بیاہی ماؤں کی بہتات ہو جائیگی۔ (ت)

نیز یہ کہ سرعت انزال کے علاج کے لئے جو تصاویر دی گئی ہیں ان کے مطابق ہمارے معاشرے کی شریف اور با حیا خواتین اپنے خاوندوں کے ساتھ اس طرح کے بے حیائی کا عمل کرنے کے لئے کبھی رضا مند نہ ہونگی جب تک یہ عمل کوئی ماہر نفسیات نہیں عمل کر کے خود نہ سکھلائے۔ (ج)

(۵) آج سے ۱۴۰۰ سال پہلے ایڈز (AIDS) جیسی بیماریاں کیوں نہ پھیلیں؟ (ج) غالباً وٹھی افریقہ میں پائے جانے والے بندروں کو پالنے والے افریقیوں کو وہ کاٹ لیتے تھے اور HIV وائرس کو ان کے خون میں

مشت زنی (Masturbation)

(ڈاکٹر سید مبین اختر کی کتاب ”نوجوانوں کے خصوصی مسائل“ پر ایک گمنام قاری کے خیالات)

لگانے والا ملھون ہے۔ اس لئے مشت زنی کو گناہ ہی کہنا چاہئے۔ (ترجمہ) ”کیا وہ (اللہ) جس نے انسان اور کائنات کو پیدا کیا وہی واقف ہے؟“ اس برائی کا علاج صرف یہ ہے کہ بالغ لڑکوں کو جن کی عمر 18 تا 30 سال ہے 13 سے 14 یا 20 سال کی لڑکیوں سے شادی کر دی جائے۔ سورہ نور میں مختلف درجات کی عورتوں سے نکاح کرنے کی اجازت ہے لیکن آج کل پڑھی لکھی اور خوبصورت لڑکیوں ہی کی تلاش میں سالوں لگ جاتے ہیں۔ دراصل روزی رسانی اور خوشحالی اللہ ہی کے ہاتھ میں ہے (نہیں میں تو لیزڈ ڈاکٹر ہی سے شادی کرونگا) لیکن لیزڈ ڈاکٹر لڑکی بڑا کام لاؤ کا پسند کرتی ہے۔

(۲) اللہ تعالیٰ نے حضرت آدم کے بعد ایک لاکھ چوبیس ہزار اسی سے زیادہ پیغمبروں کو مبعوث فرمایا سب ہی نے اخلاقیات، خوش اسلوبی اور ایمانیات پر زور دیا کسی نے بھی 5، 3 سال سے 13، 8 سال کے بچوں کو جنس کی تعلیم پر زور نہیں دیا اور چند کتابیں اور صحیفے بھی نازل کئے۔ سورہ نور آیت نمبر ۳۴ میں ہے مرد یا عورتیں جب باہر نکلیں تو اپنی نگاہیں نیچی رکھیں یعنی ایک دوسرے کے جسموں کے نشیب و فراز کو نہ ٹھیس تاکہ ان کے فروج محفوظ رہیں۔ نگاہ اور فروج کی حفاظت میں کتنا کبر اہم ہے۔ نگاہ ذہن سے تعلق رکھتی ہے اور ذہن جنسی اعضا سے۔ ذرا خوب غور کیجئے۔

اکثر والدین بچوں کو جنسی تعلیم نہیں دیتے تو انہوں نے خود یہ تعلیم حاصل کی۔ جبلی طور سے بچے خود ہی ماحول سے سب کچھ سیکھ لیتے ہیں، کوئی نہیں بتاتا کہ یہ پیشاب کرنے کی جگہ اور اور یہ پاخانہ کرنے کی۔ دیہات

(۱) جھوک اور مٹی ایک جیسے نہیں ہو سکتے۔ جھوک پاک ہوتا ہے۔ (۱) رسول خدا ﷺ نے لعاب دہن لگا کر حضرت علیؓ کے آشوب چشم کو صحت مند بنایا۔ حضرت ابو بکرؓ کی بڑھی پر سانپ سے ڈسے ہوئے نٹا لوں پر لگا کر زہر کا اثر اور درد دور کیا۔ بلیاں اور کتے جھوک سے اپنے زخم چاٹ کر علاج کرتے ہیں۔ لوگ انگلیوں پر جھوک لگا کر کتا یوں کے اوراق پلٹتے ہیں یہ صحیح ہے کہ مٹی کا اخراج ایک فطری بات ہے جو جوانی میں بہت زیادہ ہوتا ہے۔ اس میں مردانہ نطفے ہوتے ہیں مشت زنی سے مٹی نکال کر انسان کا ضمیر ملامت کرتا ہے اور مسلمانوں کو احساس گناہ ہوتا ہے جب کہ اسلام سے ایسا نہیں ہوتا۔ دونوں صورتوں میں غسل کرنا واجب ہو جاتا ہے۔ سورہ المؤمنون (۲۳: ۷) اور سورہ المارج (۳۰: ۷۰) میں صرف منکوحہ بیویوں اور شرعی بائندوں سے جماع کرنا جائز بتایا گیا ہے لیکن دوسرے ذرائع اور مواقع سے شہوت رانی کرنا شریعت کی حد کو ٹٹا تھلا گیا ہے۔ جسے جمہور علماء اور فقہاء شہوت رانی کہتے ہیں۔ اگر امام احمد بن حنبلؒ (پ) نے کسی فتنی غلطی سے حلال اور جائز بتلایا ہے تو اس کی تائید میں کوئی آیت اور حدیث پیش نہیں کی جاسکتی ہے۔

اگر امام ابو حنیفہؒ یہ کہتے ہیں کہ مشت زنی اگر شدت جذبات سے مغلوب ہو کر ہو جائے تو امید ہے کہ اللہ تعالیٰ اپنی رحمت اور بخشش سے معاف کر دے گی (ترجمہ) ”معاف کر دے گا جسے وہ چاہے گا اور سزا دے گا جسے وہ چاہے گا“ قرآنی فقرہ ہر گناہ پر مستعمل ہے۔ رقم نے مشکوٰۃ شریف یا کسی دوسری مستند حدیث کی کتاب میں یہ پڑھا یعنی (ترجمہ) ”ہاتھ سے گرہ

Question on addiction, sex, psychiatric or the possession syndromes

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Remarks about the bulletin

From

THE EDITOR
KARACHI PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL
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Dr. Syed Mubin Akhtar

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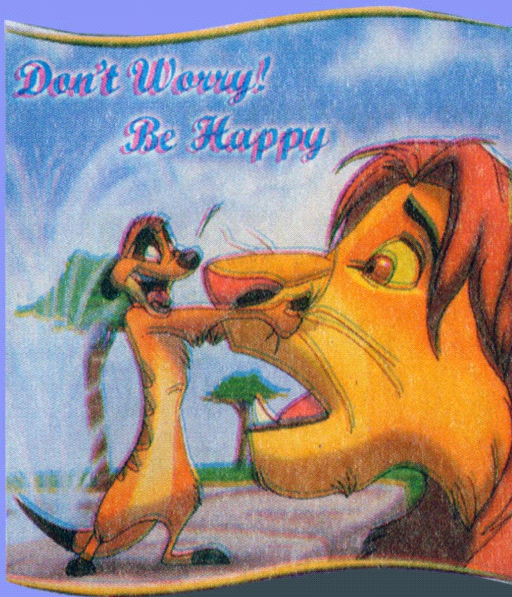
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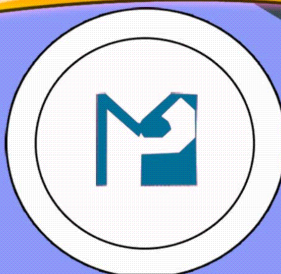
● Anxiety disorder

● Panic disorder

● Depression

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