



HOW TO LEARN OTHER LANGUAGES?



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HILAL for Kids

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Editor's Note

OTHER THAN THE MOTHER TONGUE

Dear Kids!

It is rightly said that language is power. When we speak, we use words. Words transfer ideas and thoughts to others. Thoughts become a reality when one applies an ensuing action. This is how a language is born, and a culture constitutes. The creation of a language, and its constant evolution, has actually led the mankind to open up, and unlock the wonders of this world. Without a language, it wasn't possible. It is still impossible. 'Word' is the whole 'world' with addition of only one alphabet.

Language of a native of an area is called "mother tongue". There are roughly 6,500 languages, spoken all over the world. Very few know that Tamil is the world's oldest language, which is over 5000 years old; imagine, it first appeared in 3000 BC! Question is, whether or not this language has left a significant mark on a civilization? The answer is, only those languages survive which play a part in continuous human development and its uninterrupted evolution. It has to have in its fold an ingredient of crossing the barriers of borders and reaching out to other civilizations. Such a language opens up the door to know the unknown, and to embrace and absorb more languages.

That's why the elders advise us to learn languages other than the mother tongue. Even learning another language is essential in actually knowing one's own language. Goethe had rightly said, "Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own". It is also important to know as to how a language comes into being, which is not possible unless we study other languages' origins of creation and circumstances of evolution. This issue of *Hilal for Kids*, in your hands, dearly discusses these aspects in the coming pages, with a special focus on the evolving of English language, which you will find interesting; besides, you will tap into how a language broadens one's thinking and helps in an individual's development?

Dear Friends!

Urdu is our national language, which has a similarity with English language's making and a near resemblance with its evolution. Urdu's formulation, and its subsequent transformation, started with the arrival of Mughal warriors in the subcontinent. Zaheer-ud-Din Babar was not only the founder of Mughal empire but also the opener of a new door to a different world. He was a 'military genius'. At the same time, he was a poet par excellence. His poetry was in Turkish language, which later was translated into Persian as well as other languages, but it actually laid the foundation stone of the Turkish-Arabic-Farsi mix with native languages, spoken across the length of late 16th to early 20th century Hindustan. A special article on "Zaheer-ud-Din Babar", on next pages, will not only amaze you with the valour of *Timurid* prince, but also unfold the mystery of 'the language of warriors' – called Urdu. True to its essence, an article on another warrior, Capt Bilal Shaheed, and his so towering mother, will prove how valour is synonym to *Motherland!* Brave sons of soil are born to brave mothers, no doubt.

Dear Readers!

Read on, from start to end; your feedback will encourage us to come up with unique topics for next editions. Hopefully, you and your parents will take extra care on Eid-ul-Azha to make sure that the most hated coronavirus will not spread further. Why not, in this hot summer, try to keep water in a bowl for the birds in your garden, balcony and rooftop? It's the simplest way one can do to earn a few more good deeds. Don't forget following social distancing, and applying safety standards.

Eid Mubarak to you all.

Farooq-uz-Zaman





Learning Languages and Individual Development

Anosh Farooqui



English language is the *lingua franca* today; it is used commonly around the globe to communicate. Still there are charms that other languages have like French as the most beautiful spoken language, German as the most beautiful sung language, Arabic as the most beautiful written language, Persian and Urdu as the sweetest and melodious languages, and Italian as the foremost language in the world of art. Every other language has its own beauty and accent which make them unique from one another.

A multilingual ability is definitely a competitive edge in today's world. We as youngsters of this globalized world can utilize it in different manners. Learning a language is a wonderful benefit, not only it helps when travelling. It is also a great advantage for studying in general and for career aspects abroad. It also boosts up your mind, enhances your multi-tasking skills. It enhances your decision-making, and it also improves your first language. Acquiring a third language enables us to develop various mental abilities at all ages.

Furthermore, multilingual people are better at observing their surroundings. They easily spot anything that is irrelevant or deceptive. They are also better at spotting misleading information. Is it any surprise that famous, fictional detective characters such as *Sherlock Holmes* and *Hercule Poirot* are skilled linguists? Similarly, learning a new language makes you more conscious of the nuts and bolts of your own language. Such as it strengthens the grammar, comprehension, idioms and sentence structure of your own language. And the best part, it improves your memory. The more the brain is used, the better its functions work. Learning a language gives your memory a good workout. That means multilingual people have brains that are more exercised and quicker to recall.

On the other hand, multilingual people are more creative than monolinguals. As a result, they came up with new ideas, strong and powerful opinions. Through this they develop key learning skills such as

cognitive thinking and problem solving. Constructing fantasy languages even has some serious academic muster behind it. For example, brand new languages are constructed entirely for fantasy fiction. Like *Quenya* – used by the elves in *Hobbit* created by J.R.R. Tolkien and *Dothraki* language that is used in ‘*Game of Thrones*’ created



by David J. Peterson. That means fantasy constructed languages are a huge part of a creative thing.

Although the trend of learning foreign languages has been followed since the time of Roman Emperors, Ottoman Emperors and Mughal Emperors. It was a privilege that helped them spreading their trade links, their art, their culture, and their religion as well. Do you know languages have life spans? Despite of the rising trend of learning these foreign languages, still there are at least 20 languages worldwide with only one speaker left and about one language becomes extinct every two weeks. Not only this, but there are 2,400 languages currently in danger of becoming extinct.

Alternatively, do you know how new languages came into being? Languages evolve just like living organisms, and this is how different languages evolved from each other. Just like Urdu, this is also known as ‘The Tribe Language’, composed of different languages i.e. Turkish, Persian and Arabic mainly. Similarly, Spanish contains about 4,000 Arabic words. There is a lot of similarity between biology and languages. As new cells are formed from the pre-existing cells, similarly new language came into being from previously existing languages.

Moreover, I won't say that learning a foreign

language will be easy, you might face difficulty learning new words and phrases but it'll be fun too. We make mistakes but we don't let them stop us from moving forward, instead we learn from them. When you target something to achieve, then never let any hurdle make you back out from the journey towards your goal. And as you move forward towards it, you'll discover new things about the world and you'll explore yourself more.

Here is a fun opinion that in the brain of every monolingual, there's a dormant polyglot – a genie, who, with some brisk mental friction, can be woken up. I tested that presumption by recently completed learning German and it is proved by how much I got creative and always trying for new things to learn or create. Being a student, I always planned for my career to settle abroad. This is one of the strong motivations that helped me in learning German. After I completed learning this third language, I have observed how my mind gets broadened, how actively my mind started working, how much now I get involved in networking skills which improved my flexibility and appreciation towards others opinions and actions. It helps me seeing the world from different and a positive point of view.

As a matter of fact, there are 195 nations around the globe and 7,000 languages worldwide, but there are some languages which are the part of every living being that is the language of love and kindness. These are the naturally communicating languages and require fewer words and more actions, and they are the part of every language. These are the self-taught languages; which people learn from observing with emotions. Learning a foreign language strengthens the roots of the language of love and kindness because it teaches you humanity, harmony and humbleness. So, learn to be kind to yourself and only then you can be kind to others.

Presently, as we all are quarantined, this is the best time one can work on learning a foreign language; the best time to work on yourself and to get more active and creative. Not just for studying and travelling abroad but you can learn it to boost up yourself. If you want to grow and make your brain run fast, then do try this. It is a brain exercise which also helps to prevent serious diseases like *Alzheimer*. Learning a foreign language has so many benefits, especially at young age, if you have an opportunity now don't let it go, achieve it, and you'll see the change and positive vibes in you.



(Anosh Farooqui is a student of XII Pre-Engineering)

HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF



LANGUAGE

Khadija Jameel



Roughly, six thousand five hundred languages are being spoken around the globe today. Each with their unique multitude of words, phrases and accents. Usually these languages are associated with a particular group of people or a region and one is utterly astounded by the different ways people express themselves. These languages are supposed to break communication barriers between people, but with such wide numbers of dialects it rather creates hurdles for one to understand the language of the other person or groups of people. Among such confusions, there is a requirement of a universal language that is understood by if not all, then at least majority of the masses on the Earth. There is a language that seems to just do the trick and help far-off people to connect and decipher each other with the help of a common lingo and it's none other than the English Language which today has been able to reach some of the remote areas of the world too.

One can wonder how this one language out of thousands of the others managed and is still able to disseminate and prosper on this Earth for so long. This progressive-behaviour of the English Language can be easily understood by looking through its history which takes us back to the 5th Century. This dynamic language experienced a lot of transformation through the course of time. Also, important to mention here, it is quite remarkable how people belonging to entirely different regions and cultures added words, phrases, and pronunciation of their own likings to form a single language. So, brace yourself as we spy through the peephole into the history of this glorious language.

Old English

It can be a common misconception that English

was born on the lands of Britain as today it is the heart of the English language. As a matter of fact, it was originally a Germanic language who like a newly-wed bride got settled and flourished on the isles of Britain by foreign invasion. Britain in 5th century, with its vast lands, riches and minerals was onlooked with envy. But like a damsel in distress, it could not support itself as it was low on defences and sadly there was no charming prince who rescued it, rather some mischievous, yet clever groups of Germanic people in A.D 450 the Anglo and Saxons, succeeded in capturing this beauty and in return bestowed it with a new language called the Anglo-Saxons. That was later to be called as the 'Old English'. They brought with them these dialects and turned out to be the ancestors of the English language. Common English words like house, women and loaf were introduced through these dialects. In fact, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday were named in the honour of Anglo-Saxons gods.

Celtic Dialects

Despite getting hold of the majority of the British Isles, the Anglo and Saxons were never able to invade other parts of Britain except England and chose to terrorize the remaining. People living in those parts were called *Celts* who spoke the Celtic language which later could not survive but its different dialects like *Welsh*, *Gaelic* and *Erse* are still spoken in Wales, Scotland, and Ireland respectively and English, which has always been keen on increasing its vocabulary did not hesitate on borrowing words mostly for names of places like *Thames* and *Yare* (name of rivers) from this long forgotten language, too.

Era of Middle English

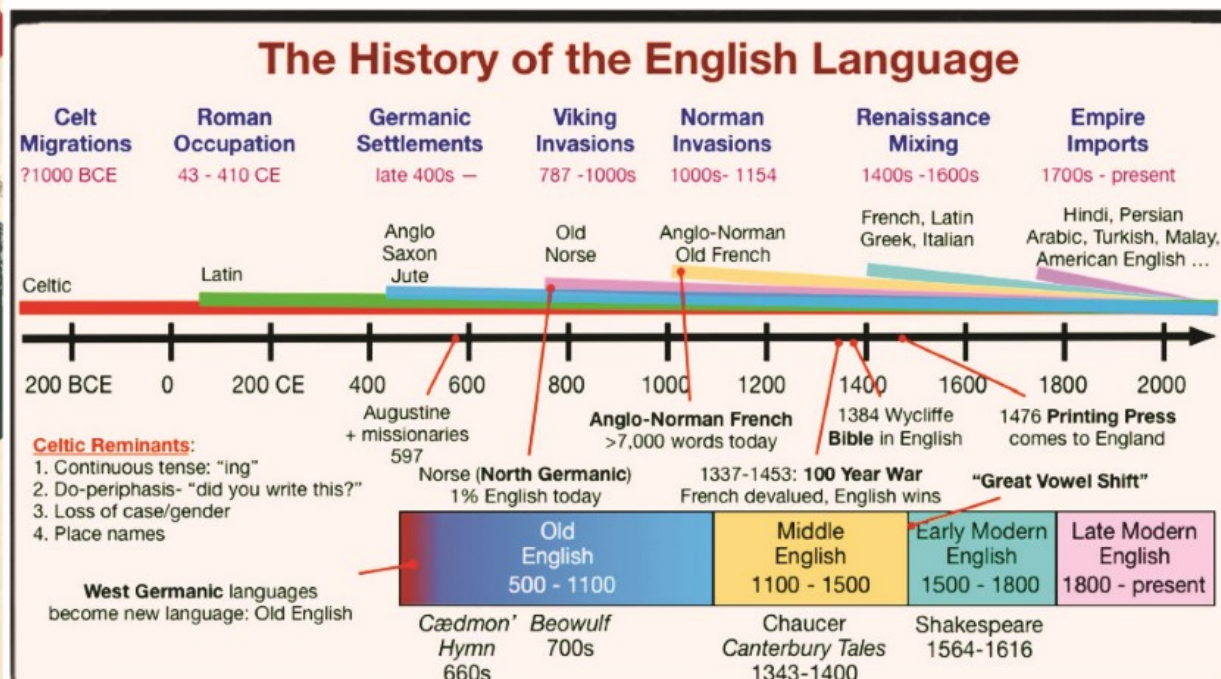
But like it is said – all empires fall eventually and

in 1066, came the *Vikings*, also called *Northmen* from Denmark ruled by William-II followed by Normans from Normandy in France who spoke the *Old Norse* and brought with them a treasure of worth 10,000 words in the bookshelf of the English language and with that, English entered the era of Middle English. In those times, French was voguish for all official business whereas Latin was spoken in the churches but the common man spoke English. Simple words like cow, sheep and swine came from the English-speaking peasants while fancy words like beef, mutton and bread were given by the French. Well, that means you can proudly say you can speak a little bit of French, too!

Late London Dialect

It wasn't until 1337 that England got itself quarreled with France and waged a war over the right to rule the Kingdom of France for almost 116 years. With its long-coveted victory, English took over as the language of power, while French subsided. This marks the beginning of the English

words. It was a significant step in the journey of English towards Early Modern English. The shift notably affected how words with long vowels were pronounced. For example, the word "bite" was pronounced as the word "beat". Similarly, the word 'life' spelled as "lyf" and pronounced as "leaf" before the shift. It is quite fascinating how history impacts language but it is quite difficult to actually understand how this rapid shift in just a length of a couple of centuries occurred. In the words of an English teacher, "English spelling is so strange because the spelling of a word doesn't just tell you how to pronounce it, but also the word's history". And the fact that there was a humongous difference in the rhymes of Geoffrey Chaucer's and William Shakespeare's, the two acknowledged masters of English language-verses with just a difference of 160 years adds more piquancy to this stunning shift. But it can be explained in the light of the fact that at that time in Great Britain, there were prodigious migrations and coming together of people speaking different dialects and



use as an official language too as in the second half of this century Standard English called 'Late London Dialect' also attained the status of literary dialect by the contribution of Chaucer, the greatest English writer, and Gower.

The Great Vowel Shift

The upcoming era beheld some amazing events like "The Great Vowel Shift" between 15th and 17th century. It was the period of the rapid transformation of pronunciations of the English

pronunciations which added to the mix and resulted in these marvelous transpositions.

English Renaissance

Then came the English *Renaissance* between 15th and 17th century which brought a flurry of great works of Literature. It included widespread topics like human philosophy, self-worth, with the backdrop of radical changes in the apprehension of religion, politics and science. In fact, this was the era when the "Bard of Avon", the greatest poet

to ever live, Shakespeare, inspired by Greek and Roman classics, wrote his forever eminent and honoured poetries which focused on psychological complexities of humans among the chaos of society driven by hierarchy system at that time. His poetries and plays brought messages of love and probity found in every human being despite their character or position in societies. Even monarchs were portrayed as having human emotions and were capable of making terrible mistakes. As in his book *Hamlet*, William Shakespeare wrote, "There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so."

Early Modern English

With his extraordinary work, Shakespeare added almost 1700 new words in merchandize of the English language. This altogether constituted the Early Modern English, which was now more empowered by addition of new vocabulary, phrases, pronunciations, content containing powerful messages and vast topics including science, and even great new writers like Sir Philip Sydney, John Skelton, Thomas Wyatt and Shakespeare himself emerged as eminent writers to be forever remembered for their amazing contributions.

English Beyond Britain

England believed in "English beyond Britain" and in the coming years after 15th century, it began the British colonialism in the Caribbean, subcontinent, Africa, and Australia, which sprang new varieties of English to develop all over the world. This sprouted confusions for correct and standard spellings. For this, Dr. Samuel Johnson in 1746 painstakingly forged a dictionary containing 42,773 entities that took him nine years to complete. However, for this ever-expanding language, this dictionary was still not enough to contain the extravagant numbers of words invented in the upcoming days. So, 1857 marks the beginning of the creation of famous "Oxford Dictionary" which took another 70 years to be finished. Dr. William Chester Minor and Professor James Murray were the two important contributors to the Oxford dictionary. And today it is still revised every now and then with the introduction of new words almost every day.

Present Day English

From 18th century began the era of what is called the "Present Day English". In 1971, Ray Tomlinson, who sent the first ever email, initiated the modern form of communication. And with the

arrival of internet in 1991, English was and is still moulded day to day. Internet, with its vast information and communication also brought the trend of typing. Conversations got shortened and people prefer using abbreviations instead of writing long and even short phrases. For example, "FYI (For Your Information), BRB (Be Right Back) and looks like peeps just want LOL instead of Laughing out Loud.

Present day English is shaped by electronic technologies, entertainment industries, and politics or as Mark Ably describes contemporary English as "the Wal-Mart of languages: convenient, huge, hard to avoid, superficially friendly, and devouring all rivals in its eagerness to expand." (*Spoken Here*, 2003).

Today English has become a Global Language. In the 1500 years since the Romans left Britain, English has shown a unique ability to absorb, evolve and invade first via high seas, then through the high-speed broad band, pilfering words from over 350 languages and establishing itself as a worldwide institution and with almost 2 billion people on the planet today speaking this language one can only imagine the influence it has created and will create in the future. Nonetheless, it is

punctuation
adjective
ENGLISH
verb
noun } subject &

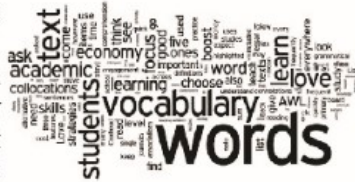
always worthwhile to read and learn about languages we speak daily and to get surprised by its evolution which is undoubtedly engrossing with its twists and turns. In the end, it can be concluded that it's just the competition for survival, whether people, animals or even languages. One should just hope and try to remain fittest for as long as possible! ❌❌

(Khadija Jameel is a student of XII Pre-Medical)

MOST BEAUTIFUL WORDS IN ENGLISH

Sameer Azhar

The British Council, on its 70th anniversary, commissioned a survey to identify the most beautiful words in English. More than 40,000 people in 102 countries were surveyed and the following words rose to the top in the daily conversations:



- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Mother | 2. Passion |
| 3. Smile | 4. Love |
| 5. Eternity | 6. Fantastic |
| 7. Destiny | 8. Freedom |
| 9. Liberty | 10. Tranquility |
| 11. Peace | 12. Blossom |
| 13. Sunshine | 14. Sweetheart |
| 15. Gorgeous | 16. Cherish |
| 17. Enthusiasm | 18. Hope |
| 19. Grace | 20. Rainbow |
| 21. Blue | 22. Sunflower |
| 23. Twinkle | 24. Serendipity |
| 25. Bliss | 26. Lullaby |
| 27. Sophisticated | 28. Renaissance |
| 29. Cute | 30. Cosy |
| 31. Butterfly | 32. Galaxy |
| 33. Hilarious | 34. Moment |
| 35. Extravaganza | 36. Aqua |
| 37. Sentiment | 38. Cosmopolitan |
| 39. Bubble | 40. Pumpkin |
| 41. Banana | 42. Lollipop |
| 43. If | 44. Bumblebee |
| 45. Giggle | 46. Paradox |
| 47. Delicacy | 48. Peekaboo |
| 49. Umbrella | 50. Kangaroo |
| 51. Flabbergasted | 52. Hippopotamus |
| 53. Gothic | 54. Coconut |
| 55. Smashing | 56. Whoops |
| 57. Tickle | 58. Loquacious |
| 59. Flip-flop | 60. Smithereens |
| 61. Oi | 62. Gazebo |
| 63. Hiccup | 64. Hodgepodge |
| 65. Shipshape | 66. Explosion |
| 67. Fuselage | 68. Zing |
| 69. Gum | 70. Hen night |

MATH

Zara Wasim



Math is just a number path,
It's not hard as you think it is
It's just Division, Multiplication, Addition, Subtraction

And that's all it is,
It requires a lot of concentration and focus
It's not done by a magic spell
Like Hocus Pokus,
It's not important to be intelligent,
You need to be independent.
Your starting base needs to be strong
It does not matter if the answer is wrong
Just try hard
Because it's not an invitation card.

Do your best
And leave the rest.
No one's perfect,
Answers are not always correct.
There is no champion in Math,
Take a deep breath,
And try your best.

(Zara is in Class 7)



BABAR A MILITARY STRATEGIST

Sher Khan

It was a horrific scene in the middle of Agra. People were running for life. A mad elephant had gone berserk. The beast had trampled many, and so many got injured in the resultant stampede. Having heard voices outside, a smart, young and daring warrior also rushed to see what had happened. He saw a huge beast was rampaging in rage, approaching nearer and about to trample the child of a mother. The warrior took his sword out and jumped in front of the monster. The rogue elephant, in a full flight and flapped ears, rushed to crush the 'how dare you?' volunteer. But it didn't happen. Instead, the man jumped in the air and with a lightning speed his sword fell on the elephant's trunk, cutting it into two. Unbelievable! This was an act really unbelievable, because cutting an elephant's flexible trunk is almost impossible. The next moment the young warrior jumped into the air, rolled himself in somersault and perched on the neck of the beast. He cut the ear-flaps of the elephant and repeatedly pierced his sword into its ears and eyes. Moments later the huge elephant fell flat on the ground.

Those running for life were now hurling applause on the saviour who was none other than the great Muhammad Zaheer-ud-Din Babar whom history knows as a genius general and the founder of Mughal Empire in subcontinent. 'Genius' he is called because, he is one of the very few generals in the known military history who defeated a 10 times larger number of enemy army with his matchless war tactic, unprecedented combat skill and smart maneuvering capability. In the first battle of Panipat, Babar fought only with 12,000-men and defeated Ibrahim Lodhi's over 100,000-men army aided by 200 elephants and 10,000 horses. In the second battle, of Khanua, despite he had even a smaller than 12,000 original force, as he lost many at Panipat, Babar defeated Rana Sanga who had over 100,000-men army, 500 elephants and an equally sufficient cavalry. How did he make it to happen is a study subject for the war course generals of the world armies?

Early Life and Failures

Babar was born on 14 February 1483 in the Fergana valley's *Andijan* area, located in the present-day Uzbekistan. His father, the governor of Fergana, was the descendent of great Turk conqueror Timur and his mother was descendent of eminent Mongol warrior Genghis Khan. He was only 12 years of age when his father Umar Sheikh Mirza died in 1494 and, being the eldest son, his throne was handed to him. Seeing that he was too young to govern, many of his father's allies

rebelled. When he tried to capture Samarkand, Fergana went out of his hands. When he recaptured Fergana, he lost Samarkand. In 1501, he faced a defeat at the hands of Shaybani Khan and lost both Fergana and Samarkand. In 1504, he went the other way, first captured Kabul and then forged alliance with Iran's Safavid ruler Ismail. He recaptured Samarkand but faced another defeat by Shaybani Khan, losing control of Samarkand, third time.

The Making of a Genius

Rebellions, intrigues and defeats, one after the other, provided him much experience to emerge as a clever politician, an engaging personality, a great military adventurer and an empire builder of good fortune. He gathered in himself enormous determination and passionate ambition to become something bigger than life. Despite being a near illiterate – he couldn't continue education because of the responsibility of governorship at a very early age – Babar was so extraordinarily intelligent that everything he could recall on his fingertips. He was a very good poet, too; his poetry, originally in Turkish language and mostly translated into Persian, won him unique distinction amongst his contemporaries. Besides, he loved life. Nature was his great attraction. He also found in him a creative architect; he constructed gardens and complemented beautiful spots, wherever he went.

Subcontinent Adventure

Defeats at home didn't let him lose hope. Rather it broadened his vision and extent of his thinking. He turned his attention to the subcontinent. Hindustan at that time was divided into two main states; one being ruled by Ibrahim Lodhi, who after the death of Sikandar Lodhi dismissed his father's loyalists and inducted incompetent people and therefore was not liked; the other being ruled by Rana Sanga of Mewar who was a cruel Hindu Rajput. Babar made several attempts to conduct raids on Hindustan. His first attempt was in 1519. By 1524 he had invaded Hindustan three more times but could not succeed in achieving a firm foothold because of Uzbek attack on his Kabul kingdom. Finally, Ibrahim Lodhi's disgruntled uncle Alam Khan and governor Daulat Khan encouraged Babar to attempt one more time. And this led him to lay the foundation of Mughal Empire in subcontinent.

First Battle of Panipat - 1526

In November 1525, Babar entered Peshawar and then marched on to Delhi and Agra. He knew about the numerical superiority of Ibrahim Lodhi, who had an army of about 100,000 to 120,000 soldiers and 200 to 300 fighting elephants. While

Babar had with him only a force of 12,000 men (some say it was up to 30,000 men including local helpers) which was aided by a 20 to 24 pieces of field artillery. Babar's men were well trained, adept at cavalry tactics. On the other hand, the larger Lodhi army's tactics were antiquated and dissentious. Babar reached Panipat, 50 miles north of Delhi, on 20 April 1526 and there he took Lodhi head-on. "Babar won the battle by coolness under fire, his use of artillery, effective Turkish wheeling tactics on a divided, dispirited enemy." Ibrahim was killed in the battle and Babar with an unusual speed occupied Delhi three days later and reached Agra on May 4. His first action there was to lay out a garden known as Ram Bagh by the River Jumna. This was the Mughal empire's first stone laid down by him.

Trepidations Ahead

This huge victory was different from the failures at Fergana, Samarkand or elsewhere. But the most difficult was his stay in Hindustan with such a small army. One, he was 1300 km away from Kabul. Two, Lodhi's remnants and other Afghan militant leaders posed him a formidable threat. Three, the Malwa and Gujarat kingdoms in the south and Rana Sanga of Mewar in Udaipur, Rajasthan, were a bigger threat to him as well as the entire Muslim entity. Four, his own men suffering from heat and disheartened by hostile

decided not to look back.

Battle of Khanua

In his memoirs, Babar writes that he dismissed every option of going back (to Kabul). "I employed threats, reproaches, promises and appeals to divert my men's attention to the threats to their survival." Rana Sanga wanted to overthrow Babar. First, he tasked his agents to intimidate Babar's men. Failing which, he assembled an army of over 100,000 men and 500 war elephants. He also got support of Afghan chiefs who were against Babar. On 16 March 1527, the Battle of Khanua was fought, in the now state of Rajasthan, 37 miles west of Agra. Babar won the battle because of his "superior generalship, modern tactics, swift maneuverability and fearless leadership: the battle was one of the first in India that featured cannons." Babar "used a barrier of wagons for his Centre, with gaps for the artillery and for cavalry sallies, and wheeling cavalry charges on the wings. The artillery stampeded the elephants, and the flank charges bewildered the Rajputs, who after 10-hour fight, broke." Rana was poisoned to death by his own men, later.

Battles of Chanderi and Ghangara

The decisive victory at Khanua paved the way for Babar to capture Chanderi Fortress in January 1528 and to get back Lucknow in Bengal from Afghan captors. Then he turned to Mahmud



surroundings, wanted to go back. Five, with such a small army, it was a do or die situation: a retreat could have been proved suicidal. So, Babar

Lodhi, a remnant of Ibrahim, and defeated him at Ghangara on 6 May 1529. After these victories, his rule extended to most of Hindustan; his dominion

was now secure from Kandahar to Bengal.

Sudden Turn: Father Dies for Son

Babar had four children from Maham Sultan Begum, of whom only one survived; this was his eldest and beloved son Humayun, who was born on 6 March 1508 and remained with him throughout his subcontinent campaign. In 1530, Babar was in Agra when the 22-year old Humayun got seriously ill and doctors lost hope of his recovery. This dismayed Babar as he wanted Humayun to become his heir. He looked to the sky and prayed for son's health and then an innovative idea came to his mind; he started circling around the bed of his ailing son. While walking seven times around son's bed, he made a vow to offer his own life to God in exchange for Humayun's. He was so strong and so firm in his prayer that immediately after his vow, the father's health started declining and the son's started recovering. Babar died the same year, on 26 December 1530, and thus he sacrificed his own life for his son to continue his legacy as the next king of Mughal Empire in Hindustan.

Babar's Legacy

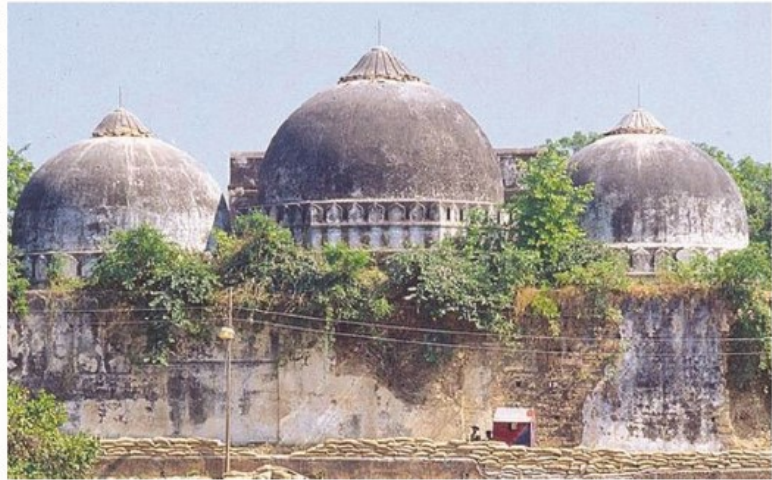
Babar was buried in Agra first, but as per his wish, his remains were moved to Kabul and reburied there. In today's Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan Babar is ranked as their national hero. His prayer for Humayun's life proved to be true in most dramatic ways. Humayun became the king but soon he faced defeat at the hands of Sher Shah Suri and Afghan-Pushtun warriors; Humayun escaped to Iran in highly dangerous circumstances, but seemingly Babar's prayer for his son protected him during this period, too. He staged a comeback after 15 long years, and then managed to reestablish the Mughal Empire.

Babar's Literary Taste

Babar himself wrote *Babarnama* in Turkish language, which was translated into Persian during his grandson Emperor Akbar's reign (1556-1605). His memoirs, known as one of the best autobiographies, form the main source for details of his life. It was translated into English as "*Memoirs of Babar*" in two volumes, first published in 1921-22. Quoting Henry Beveridge, Stanley Lane-Poole writes: "His autobiography is one of those priceless records which are for all times, and is fit to rank with the confessions of St. Augustine and Rousseau, and the memoirs of Gibbon and Newton. In Asia, it stands almost

alone." The book truly portrays him as a ruler unusually magnanimous for his age, cultured and witty, with an adventurous spirit and an acute eye for natural beauty.

Not only was he a very good poet, he also loved Nature. His well-known couplets are still quoted by literary figures. In his own words, "The cream of my testimony is this, do nothing against your brothers even though they may deserve it." Part of another couplet stands as a proverb "*Babar ba aish kosh k aalam dobara neest*", which means, "O' Babar! Enjoy the world, have fun and make merry, for the world will not be there for you a



second time".

Pioneer of Mughal Architecture

Babar's aesthetic sense attracted him towards the love of Nature. During his rule in Kabul, when there was time of relative peace, Babar pursued his interests in literature, art, music and gardening. Wherever he went, he built gardens and buildings bringing in cultural mixes of Turkish, Persian, Uzbek, Tajik, Afghan and Hindustan architecture. His first action, after winning the First Battle of Panipat, was to order the construction of Ram Bagh by the River Jumna, which is considered to be the Mughal empire's first visible stamp on Hindustan. The now demolished Babri Mosque in Ayodhya, constructed under the supervision of a commander of his army Mir Baqi, was a testimony to that.

Babar Cruise Missile

Pakistan named its Hatf-VII short-range turbojet powered subsonic as "Babar Cruise Missile" only to honour the Mughal Emperor Zaheer-ud-Din Muhammad Babar. The Babar missile, developed in October 2005, can be launched from land and underwater seaborne platforms. Like Babar himself, the missile after his name sends shockwaves to the enemy. ❖❖



Asma Ishaq

The Valiant Son of a Fearless Mother

It was a pin drop silence in the huge gathering at *Yadgar-e-Shuhada*. The mother of Shaheed Capt Bilal was standing on the podium. Everybody was listening to the loud words of the bold mother of Shaheed Captain. She was telling them:

"...My son was sitting with me, talking. Suddenly, he asked me a question: "*Maa Ji*, which kind of death do you like?"

I got surprised, I asked him: "What death are you talking about, son?"

He stood up, looked to the main gate and said: "*Maa Ji*, suppose, you're sitting here and the gate right there opens up, two officers march in, salute you and say: "*Maa Ji! Mubarak ho apka beta shaheed ho gia, hum usay Pakistani Parcham main lapait k laey hain...how would you feel then?*"

I told him, "Beta, the day you wore this uniform, I gave you in the Hands of Allah. He is the Best Protector we know."

But Bilal kept on talking, "By the way, '*Maa Ji*, small bullets can't do a harm to me, only a *toap ka gola* (mortar shell) can make a hole in my chest."

She was telling the audience, in thousands. "Two days after, my son left for the front. His operation was a real tough. The *Guzano Sar Top* in Pechoar Valley was a real test. The terrorists holding that top were giving tough time to us. Their forward move was halted due to this terrorist stronghold. My son took the task to clear that area. He, along with 50 of his men, raided the *Guzano Sar*. He led from the front. He was cautioned many times to take care, but he kept on advancing. Enemy bullets were raining all around. But he kept on moving. He and his men were in process of clearing the area when an RPG-7 rocket hit him in the chest. He fell down and embraced *shahadat*."

Sobs whispered from among the gathering. She said: "I tell you, exactly the same way it happened as my son had desired, two days before his martyrdom. The gate of our home got opened,

two of his colleague officers stepped in, saluted me and said: “*Maa Ji, ap ka beta shaheed ho gia hei. Hum usay Pakistani Parcham mein lapait kar laey hein.*” Almost everybody broke in tears. But she stood like a rock on the podium. With spot face and no tear in eyes, she continued: “I looked up in the sky and thanked to Allah Almighty; Who fulfilled his wish of *shahadat*. Allah had listened to him; same thing had happened,



he had said small bullets could do no harm to him, so he received no small bullet but an RPG-7 rocket on his chest. *Al Hamd-o-Lillah.*”

These were the inspiring words of Mrs. Naeema Zafar Abbasi, who breathed her last on 13 June, 2020, after a prolonged illness. Just a month ago, her family observed the 11th anniversary of Capt Bilal’s martyrdom. The nation has lost such a brave and courageous mother who had in her Hazrat Khunsa (RA) like courage. Bilal embraced *shahadat* on 17 May 2009, the Guzano Sar top he captured was named after him as Bilal Shaheed Top. On 6th September 2010, she was invited to grace Pakistan Defence and Martyrs’ Day. And she did grace it well. Her last words are still echoing in my ears: “My son Bilal’s name will remain living till Pakistan lives. I can see many soldiers’ mothers sitting here. I want to say to you all. Stay bold and fearless after sending your sons to battlefield. I’ve no fear about my country. Pakistan has hundreds of Bilals, ready to sacrifice, whenever there is a need. I pray, may Allah bless every Pakistani mother with a son like Bilal, who would never be hesitant from doing his duty of defending the *Motherland.*”

If such are the mothers, then no one on earth can defeat their sons and daughters; the mothers are fearless and their sons and daughters are dauntless. Equally tough and invincible is the Mother-land and equally unbeatable are the gallant sons of soil. Bilal and Zarrar were brought up by such a brave mother, the wife of an army officer, whom I met at much later of Bilal’s

martyrdom. An elegant but simple, polite but firm lady, she looked to me a thorough loving person. When I offered my condolences to her, saying, “you must be broken, you’ve lost a son”, she proudly said: “Why should I? I am thankful to Allah who fulfilled my son’s wish for *shahadat*. His chest was so solid that even the direct hit by RRG-7 couldn’t tear it through. As SSG commando, he was prepared to fight the toughest of battles.”

I had come from Karachi; my stay with that great lady and members of Captain (ret’d) Zafar Tajammul Abbasi’s family was a memorable one. She told me how they had brought up Zarrar and Bilal from childhood to joining PMA. She used to call her son as *Bali*. “Both my sons were best friends. Their bed time stories were more often about our war heroes. This instilled in them chivalry and soldiery, and a strong desire to join Pakistan Army. Capt Bilal’s martyrdom and his mother’s matchless courage are a testimony to Quaid-i-Azam’s saying that “No power on earth can undo Pakistan.” This blessed *Motherland* not only bears sons like Bilal but mothers like Naeema Zafar. She is no more; she peacefully breathed her last on 13 June, 2020 at CMH, Rawalpindi, and left this world only to meet her son in the eternal abode:

*Now Bilal will be happier
He will sleep again
In his mother’s lap
He must be preparing in Heaven
To welcome his mother,
With the flowers and stars,
And with the moons around
His eyes are to be filled with joy
When he looks up-to his mother
Bright, sparkled, smiling.
This is so special indeed
When a martyr stands honoured
To receive his Mother in blossoms! ❖❖*

(Asma is school teacher)

INDIAN BRUTALITY AT PEAK

Faryal Khan

Grandson's Picture Shocks The World



The fascist and atrocious face of India lay uncovered yet again in a terrible photograph of a Kashmir toddler getting viral on internet. In a horrific picture of the 3-year-old minor sitting on his 65-year-old grandfather's dead body in the middle of Sopore district of the Indian Occupied Kashmir stunned the world in shock and awe, anguish and pain. The picture went viral on social media like a jungle fire and drawn widespread hatred against the brute Indian forces and the barbaric Modi government. The picture staged in a way to mock the misery of the child wailing on the blood stained corpse of his grandfather is not just a heart wrenching sight, but it is a killing pain in the heart.

Thousands of enraged people in Occupied Kashmir staged widespread protests on July 1 against the killing of innocent elderly man, whose grandson was later left badly weeping and wailing helplessly sitting on Bashir Ahmed Khan's dead body, dazed and traumatized. The forces, according to eyewitnesses, dragged the elderly man out of his car and shot him dead, leaving his

body in pool of blood. Later, the troopers in uniform put the child on his chest as the grandfather lay dead on the road; they took photographs to make the mockery of his corpse. The toddler was accompanying his grandfather for drawing cash from a bank situated in the heart of Sopore town. Later, in the afternoon, hundreds of Kashmiris gathered at the old man's funeral, chanting slogans of "We want freedom."

Bashir Ahmed Khan's daughter said that her father had gone to the bank to cash a cheque and on the way he was dragged out of his car and then shot in cold blood. Without naming anyone, she said her father's killers did not care about the 3-year-old child who was accompanying him. "Who shoots a person in front of a 3-year-old kid?", she asked in deep anguish. The victim's wife said that her 3-year-old grandson was deliberately made to sit on the corpse of her husband. "My brother was not a militant. He did not carry a gun. Why was he killed?", asked Nazir Ahmad, the brother of victim Bashir Ahmed Khan. "If you want, I can come with you to meet the top police

officers to counter their claims.”

“We received a call that my father had met with an accident,” Bashir’s son, Suhail said. “When we reached Sopore, we were told he was killed in a crossfire. If it was a crossfire, his body should’ve been inside the car, but it was found on the road.” Aijaz Ahmad Qudsi, Bashir Ahmed’s nephew, told *Anadolu Agency* that his deceased uncle’s car was unharmed, with not even a scratch. He claimed that the 65-year-old was dragged out from his car and then shot by the armed forces. The family members also accused the security forces of putting the child on the deceased civilian’s body “for taking pictures”. “They dragged the body out and put the child on top. The child’s clothes were drenched in his grandfather’s blood”. The family said the man was a small-time employee who earned Rs 6,000 per month.

The incident echoed the killing of 12-year-old Palestinian child Muhammad al Durra in September 2000, whose father, Jamal al Durra, tried his best to shield him from Israeli gunfire, taking several injuries. The boy’s killers were never brought to justice but the photograph of young Durra screaming behind his father remained

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that the image of the three-year-old sitting on his grandfather’s “lifeless, bullet-ridden body” exposed the real face of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “fascist India”.

Leader of the opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif also condemned the killing. In a tweet, he said: Widespread human rights abuses by fascist Modi government constitute an acid test for the international community.”

Tweeting the picture of the deceased’s grandson sitting on his chest, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Aisha Farooqi said she was “searching for words to describe (...) the grief and helplessness of the Kashmiri people.” Terming killing of a civilian right in front of his 3-year-old grandson by the Indian forces as a chilling reminder of Nazi oppression, senior vice chairman Jammu Kashmir National Front Altaf Hussain Wani said that the soul-wrenching photo of a toddler crying on the chest of his dead grandfather speaks volumes about India’s fascism and its racial undercurrents.

The world felt the pain and the anger of the



Kashmiris and cited against this horrific incident. Kashmiris in India have been suffering at the hands of Indian occupied forces for a long time. The decades of brutality and the human rights violation are unimaginable and inconceivable. As hundreds of children lay blinded by the pallet gun fires of Indian forces, this

etched in the memory of almost every Palestinian.

Reacting to the July 1 Sopore incident, Amnesty India said that the security forces had violated the law by disclosing the identity of the minor. “It is also a breach of the ‘best interests of the child’ principle as required to be the basis of any action by authorities under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which India is a state party.”

incident adds fuel to the already igniting fire of freedom for the Kashmiri people. Oppressed and tortured Kashmir is driving India to a point of no return. As Nazi inspired Indian government gets bolder in its brutality against the Kashmiris, India is gradually being compelled into isolation for the crimes against humanity. It is about time that India is brought to answer for the innocent blood spilled in Kashmir and the decades of atrocious and bare barbaric are accounted for. ❌❌



TIME TO GET SCIENTIFIC

“Hi! My name is Hassan and I want to be a scientist. You may be wondering why? And my answer is simple: I am amazed at all the wonderful things like rockets to the Moon, fire trucks pumping out all that water, fast race cars, space ships, and the list goes on. But those are big things and I just don’t understand everything about them yet. I also wonder about small things like how does sugar turn into crystals called rock candy? Or how are those rock formations in caves made? Hmm – I know it has something to do with science.

My sister wants to be a scientist too, but she likes things that I don’t – like why her doll’s eyes open and close. But even though we don’t like the same things, it’s still science so we get along just fine. In fact, our teachers help us better understand maths, technology, current events and trends – all of which are important. We even help each other and have lots of fun.

I like to experiment or take things apart to see how they work? No matter what I do, I tell my mom or dad what I am going to be doing and sometimes even ask for their help. I would never just do something – I could get hurt. Sometimes it’s best to start small, that’s what I did.

I remember my first experiment in detail and it was a lot of fun to do. It had to do with growing small crystals, much like the way rock candy is

made. You may be wondering why that is important and all I can say is that it’s the basis for making any type of crystal. Their shape and size depend on many things and the more you read about them, the more you experiment, the more you grow interesting crystals.

Try This Experiment: I call it *The Crystal Bowl*. It’s lot of fun and there is nothing dangerous about it. Because I am using a common chemical, I let my mom know what I am doing. Here is what you need:

- A small clear bowl to grow the crystals in
- Epsom salt (a common chemical)
- Food colouring
- Measuring cups

The Experiment: In the clear bowl, stir $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of Epsom salts with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of very hot tap water. The hotter, the better. Stir for at least 1 minute. You will be making a saturated solution (scientific talk) – meaning that the water cannot hold any more of the Epsom salts. Some undissolved salt crystals will be at the bottom of the bowl. Add a couple of drops of your favourite food colouring. I like red. Place the bowl in the refrigerator for at least 3 hours. I put a sign on the bowl – *Samantha – Do Not Eat!* (I’m so funny.)

Take out your bowl of crystals and pour out the extra water that may be at the bottom. Have fun

examining them. Okay, it's time to get scientific. What's just happened? You just made *magnesium sulphate* crystals. *Magnesium sulphate* is the actual name for *Epsom* salt. The temperature of the water determines just how much *magnesium sulphate* it can hold. The hotter the water, the more it can hold, and the more crystals it can grow.

So, why did we put it in the refrigerator? By rapidly cooling the water, we forced fast crystal growth. The quickly cooling water became denser and made the *magnesium sulphate* atoms run into each other joining together into crystal structures. When you grow crystals this way, they will be small, thin, and a lot of them. If you let the water evaporate slowly, you will get different crystals. You will have to experiment to see the results.

That is science! Oh, don't forget to clean up any mess and ask your mom or dad to really clean anything you might reuse. Have you ever seen those really neat formations in a cave? They are commonly called *stalactites* (they grow from the top of the cave down) and *stalagmites* (that grow from the cave floor up). Want to make some? I'll bet you do!

Again, there is nothing dangerous, but let your mom or dad know what you are doing. This experiment takes some time and could get a little messy. Here is what you need:

- Two glass jars
- A large plate or pan
- Baking soda
- String
- Paper clips
- Water

The Experiment: Fill the two jars with hot water. The hotter, the better. Stir in as much baking soda as will dissolve in the water. Mix it up well and make that saturated solution. Cut the string so it can go close to the bottom of the jars and go between them when they are several inches apart. Then tie a paper clip to each end to act as weights. Put one end of the weighted string into each of the jars. Place the jars on the large plate or pan, making sure the string has a little dip in the centre. The plate or pan is needed to catch the drips of your scientific solution. Put your experiment in a safe place for 3 to 4 weeks. Keep an eye on it and watch your formation grow.

What has happened? The saturated solution is carried through the string. This process is called *capillary action*. When it gets to the dip in the string, it drips onto the plate or pan. It is similar to water passing through the ground, picking up minerals, and falling through a cave. Over time, the dripping water evaporates and creates *stalactites* and *stalagmites*. It's magic! Well, actually it is science and takes place all over the world. Science is fun and I am glad I am going to be a scientist. Maybe you'll decide to be one, too. ❌❌

PAKISTAN'S ZIDANE MAKES GUINNESS WORLD RECORD



Zidane Hamid from Rawlakot, at a young age of only 9, arranged all the elements of the periodic table in a short time of 5 minutes and 46 seconds. He made the *Guinness World Record* breaking all previous records. Born in Islamabad, the little boy is doing wonders in arts, science, literature, technology, geography and sports. He has a remarkable knowledge of physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, geography, geology, astronomy, IT, health science, and history. Zidane also has sound knowledge about religion and is passionate for learning Quran. He loves playing video games, cricket, football, volleyball and boxing. He likes reading poetry. He is also enthusiastic about travelling and photography. This super genius is the pride of Pakistan. Zidane is also world's youngest *MS Office Specialist*. At the age of 5, he passed the *Microsoft* certification in *MS Office 2010*. He has earned a number of titles like 'Source of Inspiration', 'The Little Professor', 'Miracle Baby', 'The Chemistry Cockroach', 'The Youngest Speaker' and 'Future Scientist'.

TRUMP TITLES PAK GIRL AS "CORONAVIRUS HERO"



US President Trump recognized the services of 10-year-old Laila, a Pakistani descent girl, who distributed 100 boxes of cookies among healthcare workers and firefighters in Maryland, US.

SAVE WATER

Before It Runs Out

Sobia Naureen Kayani



Water is a source of life and the most basic need of humans, animals, plants and other microorganisms to sustain and survive. A human can go without food for about three weeks but would typically live for three to four days without water. However, water is among different natural resources on Earth, which are approaching scarcity. Even, the biggest impediment for humans to settle on other planets is absence of water.

During this ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the water usage has increased manifold because it is one of the preventive measures to wash hands, become clean and stay healthy. Washing hands for 20 seconds after every 20 minutes is the most recommended tip for all of us. However, frequent hand washing during the lockdown periods owing to the Corona crisis may culminate into another big issue – water scarcity.

Water scarcity is the biggest challenge the world has been facing in the pre-Corona times. It was estimated that by 2025 water shortage was going to hit the globe causing drought and famine. Now if the pandemic persists, it is feared that the available water would deplete much faster and earlier than 2025. The question is how water can be saved from being wasted? Here are some useful tips for water reuse and recycle while staying homes as it has increased water consuming manifold. These tips can prove to be effective for us all and may enable us to contribute positively towards handling the water shortage.

Reduce Water Usage

It is good to wash hands frequently with a soap so that we not only keep ourselves away from all the germs but can also keep ourselves safe from the threat of Coronavirus. Now here, this point needs attention: from wetting hands and applying soap, lathering your hands by rubbing them together, scrubbing your hands for at least 20 seconds to rinsing your hands well, there is one aspect that probably we all ignore. Yes, during this activity of thorough hand washing, we remain so engrossed that we do not even notice that the tap keeps

running during this activity and that too for a number of times during the day, every day.

Same applies for dishwashing; we rinse the utensils, apply dishwash bar or liquid thoroughly, keep them aside, pick up the next utensil and repeat the same and wash them all one by one. But, meanwhile, the tap keeps running. So, here the water wastage can be minimized. We must take extra care while applying soap whether on hands or on dishes, make sure the tap isn't running and is turned off during soap applying and rinsing activity.

Instead of washing fruits and vegetables under a running tap, pour some water in a pot, soak fruits and vegetables for some time and then wash them to reduce water wastage.

Reuse the Water

Water left after washing fruits, vegetables, pulses or rice can be used to water plants in the garden. Plants must be watered on coolest part of the day. It will not only let the water run down into the soil and reach the roots but will also eliminate the chances of excess water evaporation.

Be careful while bathing, and avoid wasting water. After taking a bath, a wise strategy can be of cleaning the bathroom as it is all wet now and by pouring little cleaner onto the floor, one can wash it easily.

Water from AC cooling can also be utilized for some household chores.

While washing your car at home, tell the elders to use bucket of water, instead of a hose. You can also wash your car porch as it is wet after the carwash; this will reduce water usage.

Check for Leakages

Make it a habit to check for any leakages at home, inform your elders if found any.

We all are looking forward to a smooth and normal life when this Corona crisis and lockdowns are over. Lockdowns will be over but not the Coronavirus. We may have to live with it. But at the same time, we can't afford to have another crisis in the form of water scarcity awaiting us. Time is running out, so is water. Let's save it. ❏❏❏

The Shining Stars



email:jia.zubair@gmail.com



Abdullah



Filza Fatima



Saim Ali Syed



Hareem



Um-e-Abeeha



Hussain Syed



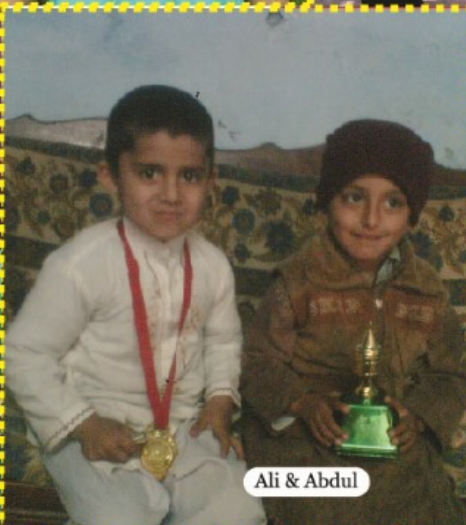
Syed Ali



Nabiha Fatima



Mudassar, Falak & Saim



Ali & Abdul



Ibtisam, Honey & Hamza



Affan

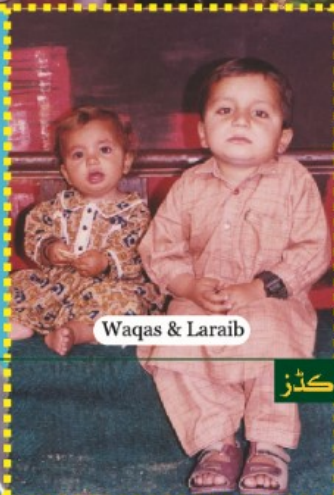


Dania & Hania

HILAL Kids



Muhammad Hussain



Waqas & Laraib



Daniya Laraib

شہ لال ہار کڈز



Hassnain Bukhari



Shehraiz Bukhari



Sabtain Bukhari



Qasim Nawaz Abbasi



Anees



Huzaifa, Haris, Hasir & Abdul Hadi



Usman Mushtaq



Fatima Mushtaq



Eraj Aijaz



Tallal



Syeda Ayet-e-Zahra



Syeda Abeeha



Syed Ghulam Hussain



Abdul Moiz



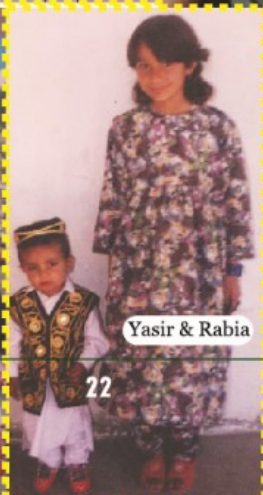
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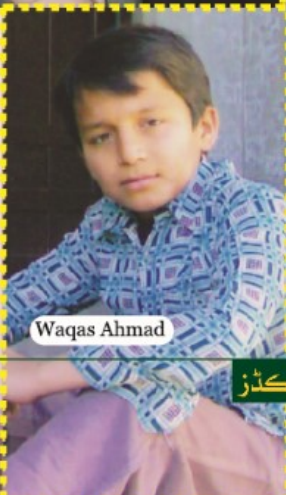
Shaan



Junaid & Kainaat



Yasir & Rabia



Waqas Ahmad



Hassan Asad