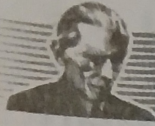


Day: _____

Kurram Atrocity

Date: _____

The recent tragedy of attack on bus in Kp's district of Kurram is not new keeping the volatile situation of past in view. The terrorist attack on convoy killed about 38 people making it as one of the biggest attack of the year. Both shia and sunni communities have been targeted by militancy, sectarianism and tribal disputes, creating a dangerous situation. The state has ignored this situation. This year, a land dispute turned into a bigger conflict killing about 80 people. The people of Kurram protested to have peace and safety but recent tragedy showed that their protests were futile. The centre and Kp government are busy in politics, avoiding ^{to deal with} this grave issue. Shallow promises and statements are made on incidents like these leaving people of Kp on their own. Security institutions have also failed to free Kp from militants. The vulnerable situation is due to its proximity to Afghanistan and sectarianism. It would be grave mistake to ignore the issue as it would spread to adjoining areas if not contained timely. It is high time state should deal with this issue in collaboration with Ulemas and tribal elders.



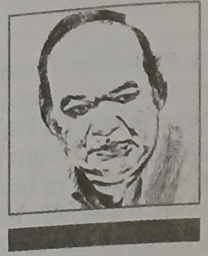
DAWN

Kurram atrocity

WITH the situation in KP's Kurram tribal district already volatile for the past several months, the murderous violence witnessed on Thursday has not come as a surprise. At least 38 people were killed when a convoy of vehicles was attacked in an act of terrorism in Lower Kurram, in what is one of the biggest single mass-casualty attacks this year. The convoys consisted mostly of members of the Shia community. In this part of KP, militancy, tribal disputes and sectarianism, which has claimed both Shia and Sunni lives, have created a powder keg. Sadly, the state has ignored the situation for years, or made only half-hearted efforts to address it. This year, a land dispute between two tribes metastasised into something uglier, with over 80 people killed since July, many of them while travelling by road. The people of Kurram took to the streets two weeks ago, demanding peace and safety on the roads. As yesterday's atrocity showed, the state was unable to provide these.

Unfortunately, the centre and KP government are both so embroiled in politicking that the security situation of Kurram and other parts of the province fails to attract their attention. Statements are issued, promises are made, but the people of KP are left to fend for themselves as bloodthirsty terrorists ravage the province. Security institutions have also failed to flush out militants threatening peace in KP. Kurram is particularly sensitive, due mainly to its sectarian dynamics and proximity to Afghanistan, in addition to the presence of militant groups and heavy arms. Yet the state has been unable to deweaponise the area, or judiciously resolve the tribal disputes that can spiral into communal bloodletting.

It would be a monumental mistake for the state to continue ignoring the violence in Kurram. Instability can easily spread to the adjoining districts if not contained, and vested interests can exploit sectarian differences in the region to create communal discord across Pakistan. The first duty of the state is to track down and punish the elements responsible for the latest attack. It cannot be business as usual after this brutal episode, and all state institutions must come up with solid plans to protect Kurram's people, and other vulnerable populations in KP. A multiparty conference to discuss law and order in KP has been scheduled for next month. Considering the latest outrage, this conclave should be held earlier. Moreover, along with state functionaries, the ulema and tribal elders must also work to defuse the situation and ensure a retaliatory spiral of violence does not ensue. The state has dithered over Kurram's security long enough. It is time to provide justice to the victims of violence, while terrorists and their facilitators must be tracked down and made to answer before the law.



BY

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The impact of scho

WHETHER schools are or not going to have much of a levels across Punjab. The de schools has more to do with children will be less exposed stay at home than if they ha and come back in smoggy co

It might work for some c issues and some consequen closing schools in smog con be kept in mind. A lot of chil that are not well insulated a have air purifiers. Their expo reduced if they do not come do not necessarily stay indoors home. Approximately 26 mi out of school in Pakistan; an are in Punjab. School closu them.

Closing schools and sayin continue to educate online does children. As we witnessed Covid-19 pandemic, there especially at the K-12 level ated with going online. Thi the issue of internet access that other than a small m schools, most schools, and schools, do not have the whe online learning. Internet ac sal; a lot of students, do not devices; and many students tions at home (for instance their own room) that are o online classes. So, online lea ditions can be quite inig enhance inequality rather ler. Jasir Shahbaz has recently in another newspap not talk about it in this piec

So the closing of schools ginal impact on the health children and some impact but it will have a significan

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Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including a circled '6', the number '27', and a small diagram with numbers 9, 3, 10, 11.

Handwritten circled number '140'.