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Introduction

In his seminal work, Globalisation and its Discontents, Joseph Stiglitz slams the neo-liberal oriented structural benchmarks of International Financial Institutions (IFIs), noting that one solution fits for all even the risk of sweeping away marginalised communities. Much similar seems at play for Pakistan. Although entering into Fund programme is critical to its external obligations, the cost of IMF conditionalities reduce growth and development indicators to an alarming point for the poor. The answer, in this regard, aims to examine the double-edge sword of IMF.

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①

Low persistent

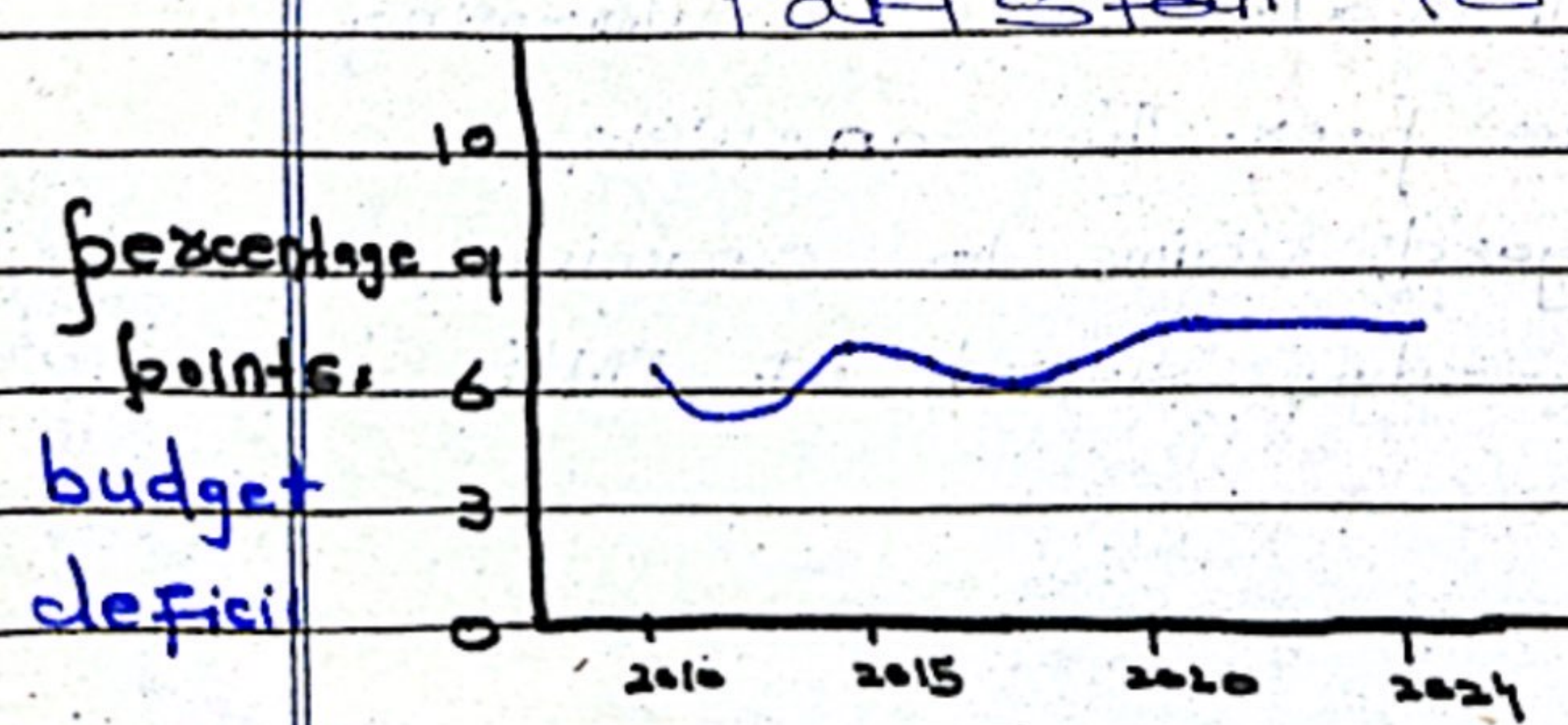
budget deficit and

galloping balance of payment force Islamabad to knock IMF doors

(s)

Pakistan's expenditure, tax exemptions and open-for all subsidies accrue deficit of budget.

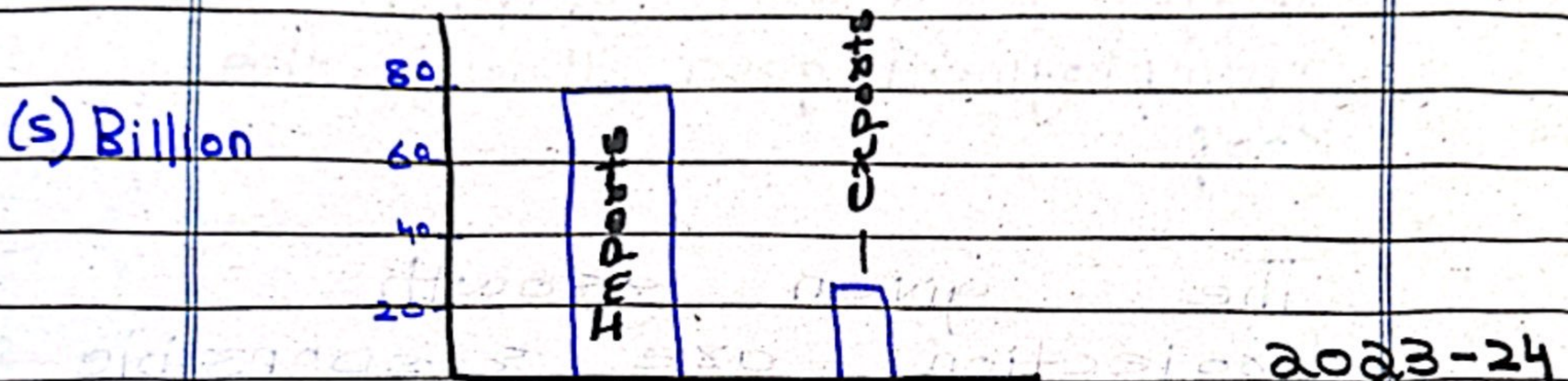
Consistent trade and revenue deficit force Pakistan to IMF.



DATE: ___/___/___

As Pakistan presses for growth, current account, due to trade deficit, runs into negative.

The graph below shows how meagre exports drive current account deficit up



Taken together, a bust is engineered.

The two when combined cause Pakistan to look towards an IMF injection.

Source: Khuram Hussain
PIDE

② The neo-liberal policies of IMF are havoc in marginalised communities

With growth projection as sluggish as 0.92pc, unemployment goes through the roof.

The given growth projection are responsible for surging unemployment and other social evils.

Poverty rises to threaten lower strata:

Today, almost half of the country remains under the line of poverty.

Almost 40pc of
Pakistanis live under
Poverty Line

World Bank
Annual Development
Analysis in Pakistan

Mass poverty and
unemployment threatens
the stability of
nation

At risk is nation's
stability. After all, deprived
masses could go
to any length.

Terrorism and militancy find breeding grounds against this backdrop

This could particularly pronounce in Pakistan's case where things and dynamics for these two evils are conducive.

For terrorism to surge, poverty must thrive

Abdul Basit Khan,
Security Analyst
Singapore

Recommendations as given below should be mapped out

DATE: ___/___/___

Pakistan needs to undertake critical reforms: broadening tax net, diversification of import.

Tax has been a disputed subject. Pakistan has to win the narrative and implement equitable tax policies.

Emphasis should be on Human Development: Education, Health, Poverty, nutrition

Human development is must for Pakistan to avoid falling again and again into IMF lap.

Without Human development, there is no progress.

Muxtaza Syed
Former State Bank of
Pakistan Governor

Technological advances should be milked, in the services sector, to fuel export growth to curtail trade deficit

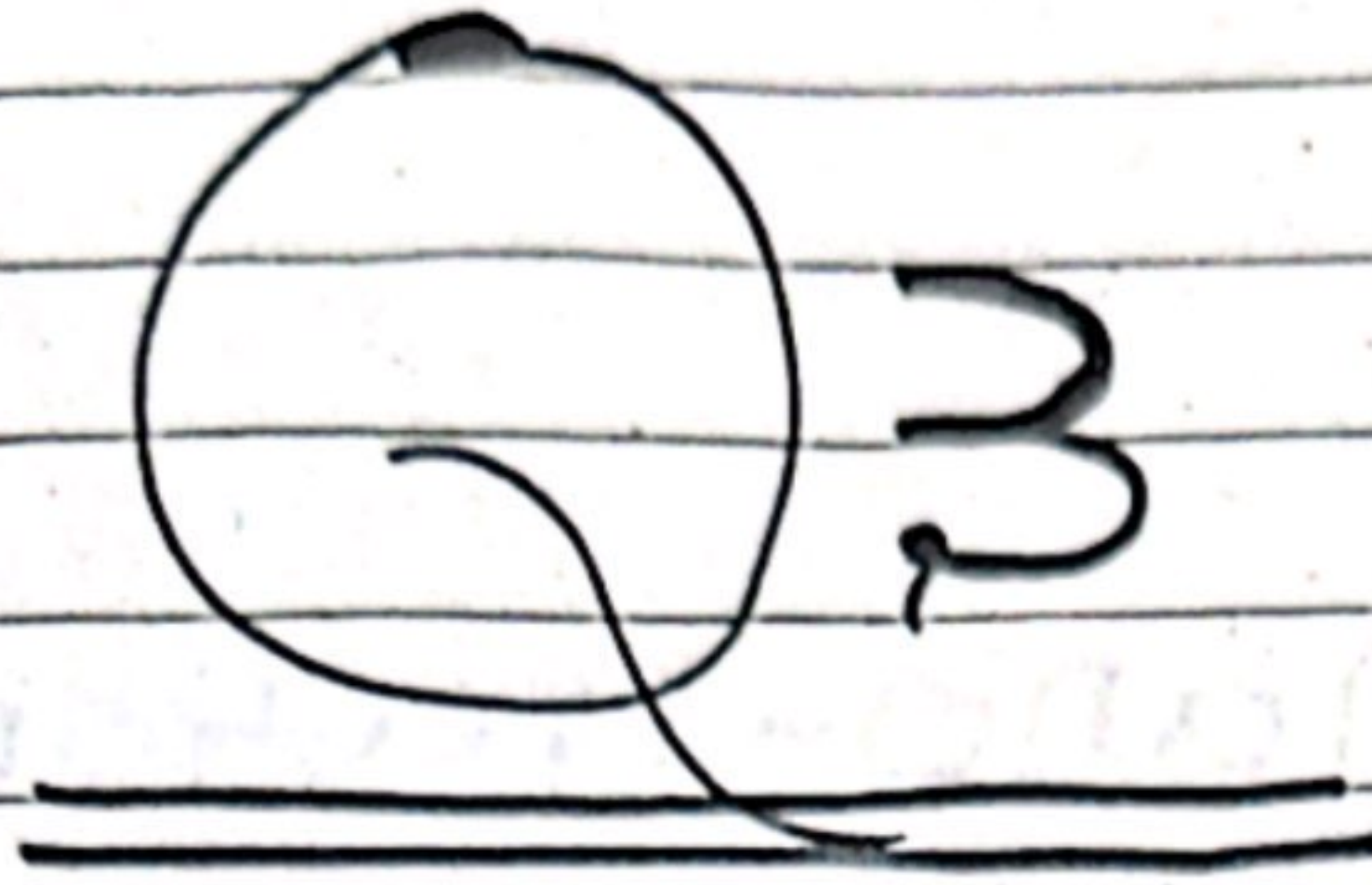
Pakistan must benefit from the advances of technology to arrest the growth of trade deficit.

A tech-driven approach could serve Pakistan in long run

Dr Hafeez Pasha

Conclusion

To conclude, IMF is Pakistan's immediate and long-standing need. It cannot be wished away. However, efforts directed towards reforms, including external and revenue sectors, could help Pakistan reverse the tide and enable its citizens to lead a healthy and progressive life.

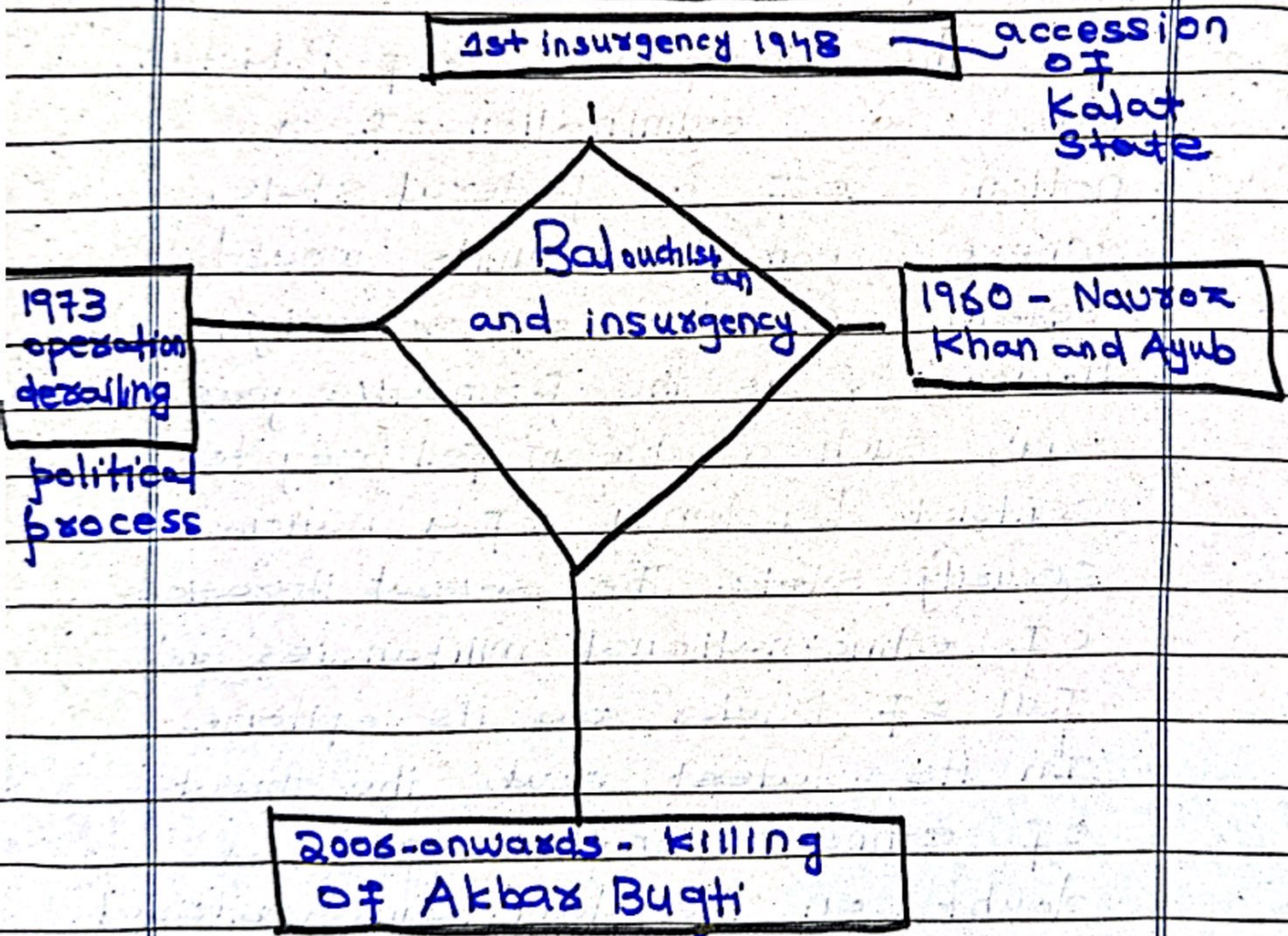


Introduction

The inception of Pakistan was a culmination of a notion of a federal state, where constituent units would retain a chunk of sovereignty. However, as the formative years saw, such a dream fell prey to centralist tendency of a national security state. The several iterations of ethno-national militancies and fall of Dhaka are its epitome. In its latest bout, the threat of ethno-nationalism appears a doubt on the long term territorial integrity of federation. The answer evaluates the recurring militancy and separatism and suggests remedies for a robust standing of the federation.

DATE: ___/___/___

Ethno-nationalist insurgency in Balouchistan — A History



The timeline is a source from
Pakistan: A New History
Ian Talbot

DATE: ___/___/___

The current bout
of militancy

Several proscribed
groups, including BLA,
have carried out
unthinkable operation.

2024 saw an unprecedented
uptick in Balouch
separatism movement in
Pakistan, with BLA
emerging as a lethal
actor

BLA is only next
to TTP, given its
growing instrument of
operation.

Pakistan Institute of
Conflict and Security
Studies (PICSS)

The Aug 26. attack
signify the growing operational
capabilities of BLA

Muhammad
Aamir Rana
PIPS

BLA has expanded
to the borders of
Punjab, Sindh-Kashmir,
and KPK

Its operations have
expanded to the
borders of strategic
~~regions~~ regions which is
detrimental for Pakistan.

The Chinese targets are
painstakingly chosen

Imtiaz Gul
CRSS

Following Strategies
Could help the Federation

Short term Strategy

Intelligence based operations
Should be carried out

Intelligence based operations
have critically significant
to uproot the forces
against Pakistan.

BLA's access to logistics,
including Nato spoils, should
be dented

Its access to arms
and nexus with TTP
needs to be dented
forthwith.

Medium term Strategies:

Balouch youth need to be courted in Pakistan's favour.

Balouch youth's attraction to the group should be resisted by winning the war of ideas and narratives.

The cycle of enforced disappearance should be brought to a standstill

This is a major cause for concern which needs an end to revive trust of Balouchs.

Long term Strategies

Fundamental rights and political participation of Balouchistan needs to be restored.

Fundamental rights need to be restored and political participation should be welcomed.

The militarization of Balouchistan needs an end.

Today, the region is a militarized zone, where armed forces are central to governance apparatus.

In long term, this needs to be toned down.

The instruments of Human Development, Fundamental Rights and Economic and democratic participation are central to address militancy in Balouchistan.

Cross-Swords

Shuja Nawaz

Conclusion :-

In conclusion, the insurgency in Balouchistan is threat to the federation of Pakistan in all aspects. Ironically, the centralist designs of national security state has failed - much less addressed it. For Islamabad to turn the tide, it has to follow a thin line where preference for constitution, development and democracy should outweigh knee jerk reactions involving merely kinetic actions.