



HABIB PUBLIC SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

e-Newsletter | November 2023 Issue

Voice of Habibian (VoH) Tackles Tough Terrain Corruption and its Eradication

Zoom Session Nets Global Audience

Reviewed by Adil Ahmad (Correspondent)

VOH
VOICE OF HABIBIAN

TOPIC
CORRUPTION
AND ITS
ERADICATION

30 SEPTEMBER 2023
SATURDAY
7:00 P.M (PST)
ZOOM

GUEST.
MR MOBASHIR SIDDIQUI BATCH (1988)
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FEDERAL
INSURANCE OMBUDSMAN,
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN.

MODERATOR.
MR.AZHAR RIZVI, BATCH (1977)
CEO & DIRECTOR
CAMBRIDGE ADVISORS NETWORK

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PHARMA

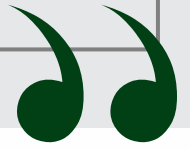
ATCO

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Pharmvo

Mobashir Siddiqui (HPS Batch of 1988), the DG Federal Insurance Ombudsman, Government of Pakistan, was more than qualified to tackle this tough terrain in an era where corruption appears all pervasive. As DG Federal Insurance Ombudsman, Mobashir Siddiqui may not be ideally situated to dissect corruption, but it was the job he held before this appointment, in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), that brought him up close to the deviant gene in our society. VoH Moderator Azhar Rizvi (HPS Batch of 1977) did a remarkable job in building and sustaining the conversation.

At NAB I learnt that merely accusing someone of corruption doesn't make him corrupt. To get a conviction one needs documentary evidence that will stand up in a court of law.



Good intentions gone sour

Mobashir Siddiqui spent 9 years in NAB, from 2002 to 2011. The anti-corruption drive began with good intentions and great success, he says, but it fell victim to the amalgamation of the administrative and policy making systems. "In all successful societies the lawmakers and law implementers exist as separate entities insulated from each other, each requiring different mindsets and skillsets. The last 2 to 3 decades saw this compartmentalization disappear, yielding enormous damage."

It was fairly smooth sailing for Mobashir at NAB between 2002 and 2008. "It was manned by senior serving army officers all the way down to my level of assistant director, deputy director and additional director. The senior levels would absorb the pressure, if any, and keep us insulated from it. In 2008 I moved from the investigation side to the administrative side until 2011, becoming staff officer to the DG."

Potent force for anti-corruption

If the spirit of the NAB law is followed then it's a very potent force for anti-corruption, says Mobashir, citing creating awareness about corruption as the leading objective of NAB, followed by prevention and then implementation.

"The process starts with complaint verification followed by inquiry, investigation, and then reference filing in accountability court, appeal in High Court, and appeal in Supreme Court. This process can take between 3 to 9 years, generally speaking. All these various stages are time and effort consuming. The accused and his family suffer on multiple fronts. Inquiry letters are sent to the accused's social clubs and the schools his kids attend. The process needs to be made extremely transparent."

Conviction stands for plea-bargain beneficiary

NAB's recoveries are in the billions of rupees, he says. "There is the plea-bargain law. The voluntary return law has been deleted, but it was there during my time at NAB. The plea-bargain law enables the convict to escape his imprisonment by returning the money involved and deposit it in the government exchequer. But he doesn't go scot free, but stands convicted and debarred from holding public officer for 10 years. In my opinion NAB's biggest achievement is the very high bar it has achieved through plea-bargain recoveries."



If we can fix the undocumented black economy then all our problems will be solved. All the solutions to our problems are present within our borders and just require political will.

Major lack of awareness about Ombudsman

"I realized how effective this office could be in serving as a parallel judiciary. There are hundreds of thousands of cases clogging up the judiciary, and the petty matters can be dealt with by the federal and provincial ombudsmen. However, there is a major lack of awareness amongst the public about the presence and function of the ombudsman where no lawyer is required, nor any fees or stamp paper. One simply worded complaint, either online or in-person gets the case started. I've been here for 12 years and Allah has been very kind for providing me with a function where I am effectively dispensing justice. Over my three jobs I feel I have obtained a complete working experience."

PhD in Money Laundering & Economic Terrorism

Having acquired a comprehensive working knowledge of ground reality, Mobashir Siddiqui has, alongside his day job, engaged with academia, and two years ago he completed the M. Phil in International Relations on the topic of Economic Terrorism, becoming the first MPhil on this topic. He has completed his coursework for the PhD and he is now working on the thesis on Money Laundering & Economic Terrorism.

When Mobashir first presented the synopsis people weren't familiar with economic terrorism which impacts less developed countries with huge potential like Pakistan, Libya, Egypt, Iraq and Lebanon. "In the book Confessions of Economic Hit Man the author details how economies have been undermined. For the last three decades we have focused exclusively on trying to fix our economy and failed to fix our diplomacy and international relations. We became proxies in superpower rivalry but did not extract meaningful mileage from it."

Center-forward

The son of veteran journalist and publisher of The Parliament, Farrukh Ahmed Siddiqui, Mobashir Siddiqui has four brothers who attended HPS over a span of 20 years, starting with Mobashir joining in 1978 and the youngest passing out in 1998. Mobashir played hockey for the HPS team as center-forward when in class 10, and remembers the principal Mr. Naqvi's speech in the morning assembly, and the strict discipline of Irshad sahib, and racing each other after school to be the first on the hockey ground.

Graduating from DJ College, Mobashir did his Master's from the Karachi University in International Relations. In October 1995 at the age of 22 he got a job offer from the Ministry of Defense in its civilian wing for internal security and logistics management, and joined, spending the next seven years there (1995-2002), travelling all over the country, and coming out of his parents' protective shell. Karachi was experiencing severe lawlessness during that period, he says, and Pakistan had also conducted its nuclear tests. Between mid-1990s to late 1990s there was political turmoil.

Escaping the wing clip

In 2002 Mobashir became restless and began applying for other jobs. He joined NAB on the investigation side, out-scoring 70 others who had applied from Sindh. "In 2010-11 the government was threatening to clip NAB's wings, and I prayed to Allah for a better job somewhere else. My first job was purely operational from an internal security perspective and comprised of fieldwork. After that I came to a purely desk job requiring investigation where I learnt about the evidence act and NAB laws. I learnt that merely accusing someone of corruption doesn't make him corrupt. To get a conviction one needs documentary evidence that will stand up in a court of law."

In the Ombudsman's office the delivery of free of cost and speedy justice at the doorstep is the mandate. In 2011 Mobashir Siddiqui joined as deputy director Federal Insurance Ombudsman, and then rose to director, and now DG.

There is a crippling dearth of thinkers and philosophers in our midst.

We need to form strong pressure groups that can assist in policy making. HPSAA should make a think-tank and shadow cabinet that does research and prepares papers to inform and guide the government.

Justice delayed is justice denied.

The common man can have his or her cases drag on for decades



Fixing our Wagon

If we can fix issues like smuggling and improve bilateral relations our economy could reach \$1.5 Trillion, estimates Mobashir. “IMF wants us to raise our tax collection to 14% of GDP. This will raise our tax collection in the short term to 14+ Trillion rupees. If we can fix the undocumented black economy then all our problems will be solved. All the solutions to our problems are present within our borders and just require political will.”

First and foremost we need to establish social stability, followed by streamlining our internal administration to make it user friendly and enable people to live in peace and with love, says Mobashir. “The biggest flaw in our judicial system is delay. Justice delayed is justice denied. The common man can have his or her cases drag on for decades. Civil disputes can be amicably settled through mediation and arbitration. Criminal cases should be tried in court, but civil cases should be resolved through alternate dispute resolution.”

Think-tank and shadow cabinet

There is a crippling dearth of thinkers and philosophers in our midst, says Mobashir. “Until the academics sit down with the thinkers and philosophers to impact policy making the problem will persist. We need to form strong pressure groups that can assist in policy making. HPSAA should make a think-tank and shadow cabinet that does research and prepares papers to inform and guide the government.”
Indeed.

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SYED MUHAMMAD ANAS

Fascinating Trip Down Memory Lane



Interviewed by Adil Ahmad (Correspondent)

Much loved

He is a hot favorite of those who attended HPS between 1966 and 1971 and had the privilege of having him as their teacher, both in the classroom and on the sports field. Known to all and sundry as Anas Sahab, Syed Muhammad Anas has led a varied and very eventful life as a teacher, banker, oil executive and philanthropist, travelling from one end of the world to the other in the process.

His golden days, however, he says, were those five years that he spent on the staff of the Habib Public School. I caught up with Anas Sahab long distance on the phone and found him in the middle of shifting houses in Lahore, a no mean task, especially for someone in his 80s. His recall of events long past was impressive indeed, and we spoke, seemingly endlessly, with him showing no signs of fatigue, driven by a child-like enthusiasm in his remembrance of days that without doubt constitute his happy place.

For the purposes of this edition of the HABIBIAN we will restrict ourselves to a recounting of the circumstances surrounding his induction into the HPS teaching fraternity.



Pucca Sargodhian

Anas Sahab graduated High School from the PAF School Sargodha and then moved to the Government College Abbottabad for his Intermediate. He then shifted to Karachi's Islamia College for his Bachelor's in February 1966, intent upon sitting for his CSS exam and joining the Civil Service. He studied political science and international relations with great enthusiasm and interest, and would frequent the PIA library next to the Governor's House. Fate, however, had other plans for him.

“Mr. Godfrey Stott, my English teacher from PAF School Sargodha, was passing through Karachi at the time of my arrival in the city. After his retirement he had moved back to England. Now he was on a transit stop in Karachi for two days, flying from England to Australia.”

Calling all Sargodhians!

He got in touch with Anas Sahab and asked if he could meet some Sargodhians who might be in Karachi. “I gave an advertisement in the newspapers announcing Mr. Stott's presence in Karachi and got an overwhelming response, with over 100 Sargodhians showing up for the dinner at the Jabees Hotel to our utter surprise and delight!”

The next day Mr. Stott was due to visit with an old colleague and English teacher from the PAF Public School Lower Topa, Mr. Hasan Akhtar, who was now Principal of Habib Public School on Queen's Road. Anas Sahab offered to escort him there.

Meeting Mr. Hasan Akhtar & changing course

After they had exchanged pleasantries and caught up on old times, Mr. Hasan Akhtar turned his attention to Anas Sahab, and Godfrey Stott gave the young lad a flattering introduction, describing him as an excellent sportsman with multiple school colors in swimming, hockey, and boxing, and academically very sound as well.

Mr. Hasan Akhtar asked him what plans he had for his future and Anas Sahab mentioned the civil service exam. That brought forth a very indignant reaction from the principal. In his view the entire government service was a den of thieves!

“I was shocked by what I was hearing and it shook my entire carefully laid plans for the future. Mr. Hasan Akhtar said he needed someone like me with a public school background to groom the young minds at the HPS. Mr. Godfrey Stott endorsed Mr. Hasan Akhtar's offer of employment and said I would be happy at HPS, and could prepare simultaneously for the CSS exam by burning the midnight oil.”

Next morning, on the 1st of March 1966, Anas Sahab reported to the HPS.



Thrown into the deep end

“It was the start of the golden period of my life that lasted for five years. Mr. Hasan Akhtar told me to take the Current Affairs class that he taught the 10th grade students. I protested that I had no teaching experience and would not be able to handle such an assignment, but he insisted, having more confidence in me than I had in myself. The boys were quite amused to find someone almost their own age in the role of teacher, and tried to put me off balance initially but without success. I knew my subject and my public school background helped.”

Anas Sahab played hockey with the boys and remembers Coach Mr. Samad. Swimming Coach Mr. Hameed was leaving for England, and Anas Sahab was asked to fill in for him as well. He put a team together for the junior championship being hosted by PAF Risalpur Academy which HPS won, setting a record in the process. He initiated the HPS swimming gala which became an annual event.

Changing course, again

“In 1971 Mr. Rashid D. Habib gave me an option to join banking in case I wanted a career change. I joined HBL in 1971 and worked there until 1983 when I met Mr. Agha Hasan Abedi and joined the BCCI.” The rest, like they say, is history of a very exciting and satisfying kind.

**FIT AND SUPPLE,
ANAS SAHAB
MOUNTS UP AT
RASHIDABAD
RECENTLY**



Rashidabad Town, and within it the SST School, is a passion project for Anas Sahab that evokes his child-like enthusiasm in unbridled fashion, and is most certainly the fountain of youth which holds the secret to his mental and physical agility in the 9th decade of his life, Masha'Allah chasm-e-budduur.

SST stands for Sargodhian Spirit Trust, and the School is the glittering Jewel in the Rashidabad Crown. Rashidabad is a small town for the poor and underprivileged located on the Hyderabad-Mirpurkhas Road near Tando Allahyar in Sindh. It owes its existence to the Rashid Memorial Welfare Organization (RMWO) made to honor Flt. Lt. Rashid Ahmed Khan who embraced Martyrdom on 13th December, 1997. Rashid's aircraft caught fire above a densely populated area. In his struggle to save thousands of lives on the ground, he maneuvered his Mirage aircraft away from the thickly populated area, and in doing so, sacrificed his own life. Flt. Lt. Rashid Ahmed Khan Shaheed was the only son of Air Commodore Shabbir Ahmed Khan.

This amazing, one of a kind social enterprise has been made possible by a small group of PAF officers who retired from active service around 1997, and who graduated from the Air Force Academy in the 1960s and 70s, led by Air Commodore Shabbir Ahmed Khan, a recognized hero of the 1971 war.

It took almost 20 years to complete Rashidabad with donations from both retired and serving PAF officers, businessmen and philanthropists for the construction of the facilities at Rashidabad Welfare Town. Today Rashidabad is a reality which has 14 Welfare organizations functioning in beautifully constructed buildings spanning almost 2,000,000 Square Feet and offering education, healthcare and social welfare services to approximately 250,000 persons annually. It has thus impacted the lives of 2.5 million people since its inception. Bravo.

Editorial



Dear Schoolmates...



It's with a heavy heart that I appear before you, but life must carry on, and with redoubled vigor, when faced with calamity on a scale that boggles the mind and leaves us in a state of utter anguish, but not despair. May Allah grant strength and courage to our brethren in Gaza who continue to live through this hellish nightmare, ameen, summa ameen.

Meanwhile, this edition we have revisited the Voice of Habibian zoom session with our fellow Habibian Mobashir Siddiqui, and what an inspiring session it was. We also catch up with our beloved teacher Anas Sahab in a fabulous trip down memory lane, and pay tribute to the founders of the Sargodhian Spirit Trust and its school in Rashidabad that constitutes Anas Sahab's passion project as a diehard Sargodhian.

Anas Sahab has been our motivating force and guiding light in setting up the HPS Alumni Association, and not just in Pakistan, but also in Canada, and we will carry a full report on our Canadian Chapter in the next issue where Syed Hamid Hussain (Batch of 1976/Green House/Prefect) and his wife Afshan have done a phenomenal job bringing together Canadian Habibians, with 60 Habibians, 25 of which had brought their spouses, attending the reunion dinner on Saturday, the 14 of October, 2023 in the City of Oakville south-west of Toronto.

On the home front our teacher Iftikhar Hussain Sahab has left us for his Heavenly abode, and may Allah bless his soul and give his near and dear ones the strength to bear the loss of his passing, ameen. Lastly, I would like to single out for thanks our very valuable HPSAA teammates Ms. Asima Pishori, Mr. Osama Waseem and Mr. Zafar Kaleem for the great job that they did in organizing the Daal-Chawal Day that brought together alumni in impressive numbers. Well done, all!

In November we will have our hands full organizing the cricket matches featuring our alumni flying their house colors, and will present you with a full report of the proceedings in the December edition of The HABIBIAN.

Thank you for reading, and may Allah bless us all with peace, prosperity and progress, ameen.

Saeed Allawala
President



HPSAA Website



HPSAA Contact Info

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
SIR IFTIKHAR HUSSAIN.

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

WE REGRET TO ANNOUNCE
WITH DEEP SORROW THE DEATH
OF SIR IFTIKHAR HUSSAIN.
TEACHER AT HPS

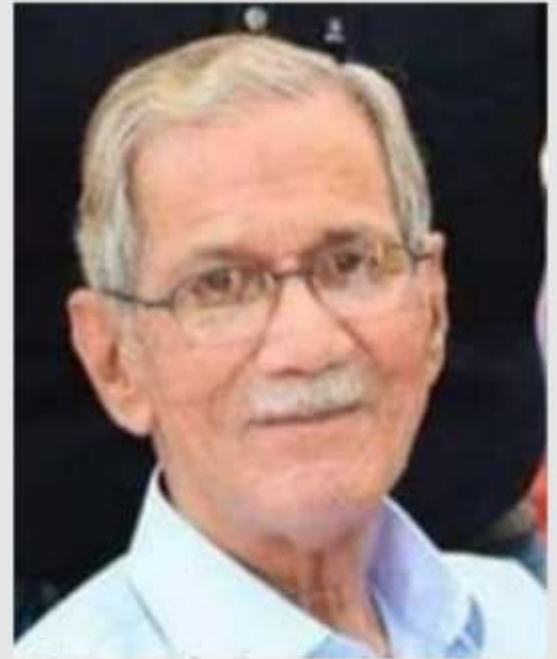
THE HPSAA EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE AND EVERYONE IN
THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
SHARE THESE HOURS OF GRIEF
WITH HIS FAMILY AND PRAY
THAT ALMIGHTY ALLAH BLESS
THE DEPARTED SOUL WITH
ETERNAL PEACE AND GIVE
COURAGE TO THE BEREAVED
FAMILY TO BEAR THIS GREAT
LOSS, AAMEEN!

Namaz e Janaza

Date: Wednesday, 4th October 2023

**At: Shohda e Karbala Imam Bargah
(Incholi)**

**Time: After Namaz e Zohrain around
1:15pm**



OCTOBER 03, 2023

School News!



The Habib Public School is a beehive of activity, with the Principal Mr. Minhas Tejani (Habibian Batch of 1982) doing a fine job of keeping his faculty and students in top gear. “Making Learning Fun” is the core philosophy at work, and it looks like it's working just fine with a full load of academic and co-curricular activities fostering joy in the students.

Yasir Salman of Class XI-A is doing a great job of tracking and reporting on school activities in the HPS Newsletter as its editor-in-chief, and its September issue is chock-a-bloc full of news of what the kids and their minders have been up to.

The Pre-Junior and Junior Sections have taken an early start in inculcating the leadership traits in the young ones through their LEADER IN ME program which strives to improve their public speaking skills and ability to collaborate with each other, with Ms. Maria Umer of Franklin Covey Pakistan lending a hand.

On the Faculty front, personal and professional development is a flagged priority, and the Quality Enhancement Team has conducted workshops to empower the teachers with the latest tools and strategies.

Advancing academic excellence

The HPS had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Carmen Gould, the Global Marketing Director of Education for Oxford University Press for the purpose of an interactive conversation about the changing dynamic of education with an emphasis of advancing academic excellence.

The Library Team organized a “Meet the Author” session with veteran sports journalist and author Syed Khallid Mahmood in an hour-long interactive event titled “Explore the World of Sports through Books.” The Roald Dahl Day was also celebrated with a listening of the audio story “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” with students dressing up as some of Roald Dahl's most famous characters.

On the sports front Cricket, Taekwondo, Hockey, Football and Basketball held sway with HPS attaining success in both inter-school competitions and friendly matches.

