

Volume.6, Issue.3 (2023) (October- December)

Arbab Saif-Ur-Rahman Khan Khalil Life And Legacy

Dr. Syed Waqar Ali Shah

Muhammad Asif Iqbal

Muhammad Riaz

Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Peshawar. waqar ali@uop.edu.pk MPhil Scholar, Islamia College University Peshawar. asifiqbal 2020@hotmail.com PhD Scholar, Islamia College University Peshawar, Muhammadriaz16102@gmail.com

Abstract

Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khan Khalil, an eminent political and legal luminary in Pakistan, was born into a venerable family in Peshawar in 1930. Despite encountering economic adversities, his scholarly acumen propelled him towards the pursuit of law, ultimately culminating in his distinguished career as a lawyer and statesman. Khalil's political odyssey commenced with his profound engagement in the Khudai Khidmatgar Movement, emblematic of his unwavering dedication to democratic ideals and societal transformation. His multifaceted involvement in politics encompassed various roles, marked by electoral triumphs and commendation for his unwavering integrity and steadfast service to his constituents. Throughout his tenure as Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Assembly NWFP (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Khalil epitomized his allegiance to parliamentary norms and impartiality. His substantive contributions to the realms of education, healthcare, and infrastructure development reverberated profoundly within his constituency, leaving an indelible imprint on its socio-economic landscape. Khalil's enduring legacy as an exemplar of principled politics and a staunch advocate for democratic values resonates through the outpouring of tributes and condolences that followed his demise in 2003. Keywords: Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khan Khalil, Peshawar, Khudai Khidmatgar Movement,

Deputy Speaker, Legacy

Introduction

Throughout the annals of world history, numerous individuals have dedicated themselves to the advancement of humanity, demonstrating an exceptional quality of compassion that distinguished them and left an indelible impact on society. These luminaries, often regarded as



ISSN Print : 2709-4154

Volume.6, Issue.3 (2023) (October- December)

divinely inspired, illuminated the world with their brilliance, contributing to the betterment of human existence. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa stands as a region of promise, blessed by nature with picturesque landscapes, towering hills, and verdant valleys. It encompasses diverse tribes, clans, and dynasties, each contributing to the region's rich tapestry. Among these, the Khalil Tribe emerges as a significant entity, playing a pivotal role in the region's development, progress, and prosperity. Notably, the tribe's steadfast commitment to the freedom movement and the struggle for the creation of Pakistan underscores its historical significance.

A meticulous examination and appreciation of the invaluable and tireless contributions of Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil reveals him as an embodiment of humility, sacrifice, and altruism. His dedication manifested through his involvement in the Khudai Khidmatgar Movement, his service as Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of the Northwest Frontier Province (now KP), his distinguished legal career, and his unwavering commitment to public service. Through these multifaceted roles, Khalil left an enduring legacy marked by his selfless devotion to the betterment of society. This research is also an attempt to acknowledge the life and services of one son of the land who dedicated his life to the betterment of his people. To ensure that we will never forget the services and sacrifices of those to whom nature has recalled. It is one sacred responsibility of academia to maintain a judicious record of their committed efforts.

Early life and education

Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khan Khalil was born on June 15, 1930, into the family of Arbab Juma Khan Khalil in Tehkal Bala, Peshawar (Khalil, 1954, p. 17). He was the youngest among eight brothers and two sisters, forming a powerful and respected family known as the "German Arbabs" due to their strict nature (Khalil, 1954, p. 17). The Khalil tribe, to which Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman belonged, historically held the title "Arbab," denoting authority and leadership (Rashid, 2002, p. 525). He hailed from a lineage of landowners and government employees, and his family was well-respected in their community (Khalil, 1954, p. 17). Despite the economic challenges faced by the region, Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman excelled academically with the support of his prosperous father (Khalil, 1954, p. 17).

His education began at the local mosque, followed by enrollment in the Govt. Primary School at Tehkal (Khalil, 1954, p. 17). He later attended the prestigious Islamia Collegiate School in Peshawar, matriculating in 1946 with first-division honors (Khalil, 1954, p. 28). Later, Arbab



ISSN Print : 2709-4154

Volume.6, Issue.3 (2023) (October- December)

Saif-ur-Rahman pursued a degree in law at Khyber Law College, University of Peshawar, graduating in 1958 (Khalil, 1954, p. 30). He actively engaged in student politics, poetry, journalism, and history during his college years. Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman married his cousin in 1958 and they were blessed with five children (Khalil, 1954, p. 17). Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman commenced his legal career in 1959, practicing in lower courts before becoming a member of the Peshawar High Court in 1961 (Khalil, 1954, p. 17). Despite limited political activities during General Zia Ul Haq's rule, he continued his legal practice and qualified for membership in the Supreme Court of Pakistan in 1982 (Khalil, 1954, p. 17). Throughout his professional life, he remained committed to pursuing justice and the practice of law, earning respect and recognition for his expertise and integrity. Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khan Khalil's life and career reflect his dedication to education, professionalism, and service to the community. He emerged as a prominent figure in the legal profession, upholding justice and integrity throughout his career.

As a Politician

Arbab Saif ur Rehman hailed from a politically inclined family deeply inspired by Bacha Khan's ideology, a prominent figure in the Khudai Khidmatgar Movement. Arbab Juma Khan, Saif ur Rehman's father, had a close association with Bacha Khan, as noted in Bacha Khan's memoir "Zama Zhwand au Jaddo Jehad" (Ghaffar Khan, 1983, pp. 34-35). The family's commitment to the Khudai Khidmatgar Movement was evident, with Arbab Abdul Ghafoor Khan winning the 1936 NWFP Provincial Assembly election, earning the title "Fakhr-e-Khalil" (Pride of Khalil) (Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil, 1958, p. 24). Arbab Saif ur Rehman's political acumen was evident from a young age. He immersed himself in the study of politics, journalism, and law during his student years, displaying a keen interest in understanding the principles and intricacies of political dynamics (Arbab Qadir Hayyat Khan, 2016).

The political landscape of Pakistan reflects its rich heritage and diverse culture, with leaders like Liaquat Ali Khan, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, and Benazir Bhutto shaping its trajectory (Humayun Saif Ullah Khan, 2016). However, the development of political parties has been stunted by societal underdevelopment, authoritarian culture, and power imbalances, hindering the democratization process (Mac Gill, 2007, p. 14). In parliamentary systems, parliamentarians serve as public representatives, legislators, scrutinizers, and social reformers, shaping national laws and policies (Mac Gill, 2007, p. 16). Yet, credible politicians emerge gradually, often



ISSN Print : 2709-4154

Volume.6, Issue.3 (2023) (October- December)

through non-democratic avenues, leveraging personal success for political gain (Mac Gill, 2007, p. 18).

Arbab Saif ur Rehman's political lineage and exposure to the Khudai Khidmatgar Movement laid the foundation for his political journey. His upbringing in a politically conscious environment instilled in him a deep understanding of the people's struggles and the importance of political rights (Arbab Qadir Hayyat Khan, 2016). In understanding Arbab Saif ur Rehman's impact, it's essential to contextualize his role within the Khudai Khidmatgar Movement, a pivotal force in shaping the political consciousness of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Arbab Qadir Hayyat Khan, 2016).

During British rule, the Northwest Frontier Province (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) lagged behind other provinces in India, marked by a lack of political consciousness, disorganization, and exploitation by feudal lords. To address these issues, Abdul Ghaffar Khan initiated the Anjuman-i-Islah-ul-Afaghana in 1921, aiming to unite and empower the Pashtun community and promote social reform and Islamic values (Ghaffar Khan, 1921, p. 37). In 1929, the Khudai Khidmatgars emerged as a popular organization advocating voluntary service and strict discipline. Initially focusing on social and religious reform, it later evolved into a political movement, symbolized by its distinctive red uniform, earning its members the moniker "Red shirts" (Ghaffar Khan, 1921, p. 46). The Khudai Khidmatgar Movement's objectives included organizing Pashtuns for their rights, fostering non-violence, promoting good character, and advocating forgiveness and reconciliation (Ghaffar Khan, 1921, p. 52).

Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil, deeply influenced by this movement, embraced a vision of serving humanity irrespective of religion or background. He believed leadership was responsible for providing at least necessities and equal treatment to all, viewing service to humanity as akin to prayer (Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil, 1989, p. 24). His legacy as a visionary leader committed to the welfare of his people remains enshrined in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's political history, remembered for his noble qualities and contributions (Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil, 1989, p. 24).

Elections 1962—1997

In the 1962 elections under the "Basic Democracy" system introduced by General Ayub Khan, Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khan Khalil contested from NA-1 and emerged victorious by defeating



ISSN Print : 2709-4154

Volume.6, Issue.3 (2023) (October- December)

prominent figures such as Ex-Governor Fida Muhammad Khan of the Muslim League and Mukarram Khan of Shab Qadar. His success was attributed to the support of basic democrats who favored him due to his prior relations from his legal practice (Arbab Qadir Hayyat Khan, Interview). The total expenses for the 1962 election amounted to Rs. 6000, with half of the funds contributed by local members of the Khudai Khidmatgar Movement. After the election, the commissioner of Peshawar was transferred for not supporting Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman's opponents (Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil, Personal Diary, 1990, p. 37).

As a member of the National Assembly, Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman diligently served his constituents, advocating for the welfare of the province. He facilitated the return of political prisoners and the recovery of seized property belonging to members of the Khudai Khidmatgar Movement. Additionally, he engaged in consultations with prominent political figures such as Atta Ullah Mengal, Ghaus Baksh Bazinjo, and Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, hosting party meetings at his home before the construction of Bacha Khan House (Arbab Altaf Qadir Khan, Interview). In the 1965 Presidential Election, Ayub Khan contested against Fatima Jinnah. Recognizing Jinnah's substantial public support due to her association with Quaid-e-Azam, Ayub Khan sought support from various politicians, including Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil. Ayub Khan's offer included the Federal Ministry of Railways, a 13 Kanals plot in Islamabad, and a contract license for vehicle import and export in the Peshawar region. However, Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman refused these offers, insisting on written permission from his party leader, Abdul Wali Khan, to support Ayub Khan. He ultimately cast his vote in favor of Fatima Jinnah, displaying his loyalty, honesty, and principles (Arbab Saif-ul-Haider, Interview).

In the General Elections of 1970, Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman contested and won a seat in the Provincial Assembly from PF-4 (Peshawar-4). Following the election, East Pakistan declared independence, and the first session of the Assembly was held in Peshawar, where Muhammad Aslam Khan Khattak was elected Speaker and Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khan Deputy Speaker. The opposition leader, Mufti Mahmud, became Chief Minister, leading an alliance between his party and the National Awami Party (Wali) (Arbab Qadir Hayyat Khan, Interview). In the subsequent General Elections of 1988, Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman contested a National Assembly seat against a Pakistan People's Party candidate, Khan Bahadur, but lost due to his cousin Arbab Jehangir Khan Khalil's alliance with Khan Bahadur Khan. Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman contested and



ISSN Print : 2709-4154

Volume.6, Issue.3 (2023) (October- December)

won seats in the Provincial Assembly in the elections of 1990, 1993, and 1997 from the Awami National Party platform, defeating various opponents, including Alamghir Khan Khalil of Pakistan People's Party (Arbab Altaf Qadir Khan, Interview; Arbab Saif-ul-Haider, Interview). Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman's political journey demonstrates his commitment to principles and service to his constituents throughout his career.

As Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Assembly NWFP (KP)

Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil's role as Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Assembly NWFP (KP) was marked by his dedication to parliamentary procedure, impartiality, and commitment to serving the interests of the assembly members. He served two tenures as Deputy Speaker, demonstrating his leadership qualities and ability to uphold the integrity of the assembly. During his initial term as Deputy Speaker, spanning from May 2, 1972, to February 21, 1973, Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman assumed the role by unanimous appointment, a consequence of the absence of candidates from the opposition bench. This appointment garnered widespread support from both the ruling party and the opposition, underscoring Khalil's esteemed reputation for fairness and seasoned parliamentary experience. Chief Minister Mufti Mehmood and Leader of the Opposition Mr. Hayyat Muhammad Khan Sherpao lauded Khalil's selection, emphasizing his political astuteness and adeptness in upholding the assembly's rules and regulations (Records Section Provincial Assembly NWFP, 1972).

In his subsequent tenure as Deputy Speaker, spanning from November 3, 1990, to July 19, 1993, Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil secured unanimous election by members of both the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad (IJI) and the Awami National Party (ANP), emblematic of his bipartisan appeal and peer respect. Chief Minister Mir Afzal Khan and Opposition Leader Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao extended congratulations, highlighting Khalil's extensive political career and steadfast commitment to parliamentary norms (Records Section Provincial Assembly NWFP, 1990).

Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil's addresses during both tenures underscored his pledge to uphold the constitution, parliamentary regulations, and rules with integrity and impartiality. He emphasized the significance of political tolerance and collaboration among members, irrespective of party affiliations, for the assembly's seamless functioning. His dedication to serving the interests of all assembly members and his resolve to maintain a fair and transparent



ISSN Print : 2709-4154

Volume.6, Issue.3 (2023) (October- December)

legislative process resonated in his discourse (Records Section Provincial Assembly NWFP, 1972; Records Section Provincial Assembly NWFP, 1990).

Throughout his incumbency as Deputy Speaker, Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil exemplified exemplary leadership qualities, garnering esteem and admiration from colleagues across party lines. His commitment to upholding parliamentary standards and nurturing a climate of cooperation and unity within the assembly bolstered the effective operation of the legislative body. In summary, Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil's tenure as Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Assembly NWFP (KP) epitomized his steadfast dedication to parliamentary principles, equity, and impartiality, establishing him as a revered figure in the political arena.

Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil participated in delegation tours organized by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 1963, and India in 1992. These engagements provided avenues for parliamentarians to partake in dialogues aimed at fortifying the role of speakers and fostering enhanced efficiency in parliamentary procedures. Through interactions with leaders and statesmen from diverse nations, Khalil refined his political acumen and bolstered international relations. Moreover, his involvement in a parliamentary delegation to Iran in 1991 enabled him to represent Pakistan on global platforms and explore historical landmarks. Through these endeavors, he contributed to the advancement of democracy and collaboration among CPA member nations. (Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil, Personal Diary, 1994, p. 24, 32).

Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil served as the Provincial Minister for Forests in 1993, during which he made significant efforts to combat corruption within the forest department and to preserve and expand forest areas in the province. He actively tackled issues related to the timber mafia and implemented measures to protect forests (Arbab Saif-ul-Abbas, 2016, p. 19). Furthermore, Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil played a crucial role in addressing the dispute between landowners of Regi Lalma town and the provincial government regarding payment processes. He advocated for the formation of a committee comprising government and opposition members to resolve the issue, recognizing its significance for peace and stability in the provincial capital (Arbab Altaf Qadir Khan, Interview).

As a social reformer, Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil championed causes aimed at fighting corruption and promoting transparency in government. Inspired by his father's principles and



ISSN Print : 2709-4154

Volume.6, Issue.3 (2023) (October- December)

his elder brother's activism, he dedicated himself to public service from a young age, particularly focusing on uplifting the underprivileged and addressing social issues such as child labor, domestic violence, and prisoner's rights. Despite facing criticism, he fearlessly represented clients in various cases and contributed to organizing unincorporated sectors (Arbab Qadir Hayyat Khan, Interview; Arbab Altaf Qadir Khan, Interview).

Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil's dedication to the development and upliftment of his constituency and surrounding areas is evident through his numerous initiatives and projects across various sectors.

As an elected representative, Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil prioritized the improvement of living standards for the people he served. He recognized the dire conditions faced by many residents, particularly the poor, laborers, and the oppressed, and pledged to address their needs during his election campaigns (Arbab Saif-ul-Abbas, 2016, p. 19).

Through his tenure as a member of the Provincial Assembly, Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil brought attention to the longstanding issues of the area, which had previously received little discussion. He initiated numerous developmental projects aimed at enhancing the quality of life for residents, spanning education, healthcare, water supply, roads, power, and natural gas provision (Arbab Altaf Qadir Khan, Interview; Arbab Saif-ul-Haider, Interview). Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil's tenure is marked by significant achievements and contributions across various sectors, indicative of his dedication to addressing the multifaceted needs of his constituents and fostering socioeconomic progress in the region.

- 1. Education Sector: Khalil spearheaded the establishment and enhancement of various educational institutions, encompassing primary and high schools, technical institutes, and academic facilities within the University Model School for Girls at Peshawar University (Arbab Saif-ul-Abbas, 2016, p. 19).
- 2. Health Sector: Under Khalil's leadership, civil dispensaries underwent installation and modernization across numerous villages and towns, ensuring enhanced healthcare accessibility for residents (Arbab Altaf Qadir Khan, Interview).
- 3. Water Supply Schemes: Khalil's initiatives included the implementation of drinking water supply schemes in diverse villages and towns, effectively addressing the pressing need for clean drinking water in the region (Arbab Saif-ul-Haider, Interview).



ISSN Print : 2709-4154

Volume.6, Issue.3 (2023) (October- December)

- 4. Road Infrastructure: Khalil prioritized the construction and improvement of roads to bolster connectivity and facilitate economic and social development, with particular emphasis on enhancing accessibility to various areas (Arbab Saif-ul-Abbas, 2016, p. 19).
- 5. Power Sector: Khalil oversaw the modernization of electricity supply schemes, including the installation of transformers and infrastructure enhancements aimed at ensuring reliable power provision to communities (Arbab Altaf Qadir Khan, Interview).
- 6. Natural Gas Provision: Through Khalil's facilitation efforts, natural gas access was extended to numerous areas, contributing significantly to improved household energy availability and overall economic development (Arbab Saif-ul-Haider, Interview).

Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil's multifaceted developmental approach underscores his commitment to addressing the diverse needs of his constituents, thereby fostering socioeconomic advancement in the region.

Views about him

The following excerpts are drawn from interviews conducted with individuals closely acquainted with Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil, shedding light on his personality, political role, and contributions to his constituency:

Farid Ullah Khan Khalil: Farid Ullah Khan Khalil, President of UC Gharibabad within the ANP, emphasized Khalil's embodiment of simplicity, nobility, and adherence to Pashtun cultural values. He underscored Khalil's unwavering commitment to the welfare of his constituents, his strict adherence to legal principles, and his refusal to exploit developmental funds for personal gain (Farid Ullah Khan Khalil, 2017).

Humayun Khan Khalil: Another ANP member, Humayun Khan Khalil, praised Khalil's humility, sincerity, and leadership qualities. He recounted instances where Khalil exhibited honesty, respect for others, and a propensity for amicably resolving differences. Khalil's dedication to the welfare of his constituents and his meticulous oversight of developmental projects earned him widespread respect and admiration (Humayun Khan Khalil, 2017).

Bakhtiar Khan Khalil: Bakhtiar Khan Khalil, President of ANP UC Palosi Lakarai Kaneza, highlighted Khalil's aversion to unethical politics and his advocacy for love, peace, and tolerance within society. He emphasized Khalil's integrity, compassion, and refusal to engage in



ISSN Print : 2709-4154

Volume.6, Issue.3 (2023) (October- December)

retaliatory actions against opponents, highlighting Khalil's commitment to ethical governance and public service (Bakhtiar Khan Khalil, 2017).

Izhar Khan Khalil: As the General Secretary of ANP UC Spina Wharr'ai, Izhar Khan Khalil lauded Khalil's discipline, humility, and humanitarian spirit. He commended Khalil's leadership by example, his unwavering commitment to truth and integrity, and his steadfast belief in democratic principles and accountability. Khalil's simplicity and adherence to his principles left a profound impact on those who closely interacted with him (Izhar Khan Khalil, 2017).

Iftikhar Khan Khalil: Iftikhar Khan Khalil, President of ANP Union Council Palosi, highlighted Khalil's simplicity, piety, and adherence to principles inspired by Bacha Khan. He praised Khalil's sincerity, honesty, and dedication to serving the people, emphasizing his refusal to exploit authority for personal gain. Khalil's commitment to accountability and his respect for diverse opinions garnered admiration among party workers and constituents alike (Iftikhar Khalil, 2017).

Pir Fayyaz Khan: Pir Fayyaz Khan, a businessman and ANP worker, lauded Khalil's humility, piety, and unwavering commitment to public welfare. He emphasized Khalil's integrity, accountability, and staunch opposition to corruption. Khan hailed Khalil's sacrifices for societal betterment and his steadfast adherence to the principles of accountability and responsibility (Pir Fayyaz Khan, 2017).

Shah Jehan Khan Khalil: Finally, Shah Jehan Khan Khalil, General Secretary of ANP in his locality, highlighted Khalil's inspirational leadership, integrity, and profound respect for humanity. He admired Khalil's dedication to ethical governance, accountability, and democratic values, considering him a paragon for contemporary politicians. Khalil's humility, honesty, and commitment to public service left an indelible impression on those who collaborated with him (Shah Jehan Khan Khalil, 2017). Collectively, these interviews depict Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil as a leader deeply entrenched in Pashtun culture, committed to ethical governance, and devoted to the well-being of his constituents. His integrity, humility, and steadfast adherence to principles earned him respect and admiration among party workers and the broader community. During his political career, Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil faced imprisonment multiple times due to his activism against martial law regimes. He considered jail as his second home, viewing it as a respite from worldly worries. He participated in movements against military rulers like Ayub



ISSN Print : 2709-4154

Volume.6, Issue.3 (2023) (October- December)

Khan and Zia ul Haq, emphasizing the importance of democracy. Despite false accusations, he was exonerated by the Pakistan People's Party government after an investigation regarding an alleged assassination plot. According to his personal diary, prison life allowed him to relax, restore his energies, and reflect on his actions (Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil, March 1997, p. 43).

Death and Commiserations

Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil passed away on October 1, 2003, leaving behind a legacy of unwavering commitment to democracy and service to the people. His demise was met with shock and disbelief among friends and political adversaries alike. During an Assembly session, Mr. Anwar Kamal Khan Marwat paid tribute to Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil, highlighting his significant contributions to democracy and his tenure as Deputy Speaker of the House. The session was adjourned to allow members to participate in his funeral prayer. A flood of tributes poured in from a myriad of dignitaries and political figures following the passing of Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil. Khan Abdul Wali Khan of the Awami National Party extolled Khalil's unwavering dedication to both his party and the nation, accentuating his integrity and patriotism. Chief Minister Akram Khan Durrani acknowledged Khalil's steadfast adherence to principles and his service to the province.

Muhammad Ijaz Ul-Haq of the Pakistan Muslim League praised Khalil's remarkable ability to resonate with individuals from diverse backgrounds, highlighting his simplicity and compassion. Arbab Jehangir Khan Khalil fondly remembered him as a devoted adherent of Abdul Ghaffar Khan's ideals, committed to democratic principles. Atta Ullah Mengal of Baluchistan commended Khalil's advocacy for non-violence and equality, emphasizing his belief in a just and empowered federation. Maulana Fazl Ur Rahman applauded Khalil's commitment to reconciliation and forbearance. A multitude of other leaders, including Siraj ul Haq, Haji Adeel, and Farid Taufan, expressed their condolences and reverence for Khalil's leadership and character. His contributions were acknowledged not only within the realm of politics but also within the legal fraternity, where he was esteemed for his professionalism and integrity. Both the Peshawar High Court Bar Association and the Peshawar High Court paid tribute to Khalil's unwavering qualities and his service to the legal profession.

His legacy as a principled politician, a compassionate leader, and a fervent advocate for democracy will endure for generations to come. The outpouring of condolences and tributes



ISSN Print : 2709-4154

Volume.6, Issue.3 (2023) (October- December)

from across the political spectrum serves as a testament to the profound impact Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil had on the political landscape of the Northwest Frontier Province (KP) and Pakistan as a whole. These testimonials reflect the profound respect and admiration that Khalil commanded among his peers and the broader community, underscoring his enduring legacy as a statesman and a champion of democracy. (References: Interview with Arbab Saif-ul-Haider, Records Section Provincial Assembly NWFP, Interviews with various political figures, and statements from legal associations).

Conclusions

It is a common trend among prominent leaders to strive to improve the living standards of their nation, community, and area. To achieve this, they work tirelessly to bring prosperity, development, and progress to their country throughout their political career. The success of a political family can be measured by the services they render and the achievements they make. However, a politician's sincerity towards their responsibilities, nation, and country is crucial in gaining the support of the public and society. People categorize the role of any politician or political family based on their performance, which can range from excellent to bad. One of the many political families actively involved in politics in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) is the Arbab family of Peshawar. Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khan Khalil's life is a testament to his dedication, sacrifices, and devotion to his people and country. He played a significant role in the development of the politics of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Pakistan. These facts make it crystal clear that he was a true leader. Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil greatly admired his leader, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. Like his leader, he always worked for non-violence and equality for all people in the country, regardless of their caste. He believed that an ideal democracy requires that all members of society be treated as equals and that everyone should treat each other with respect and fairness.

References

Published Sources:

Books:

Caroe, Olaf. The Pathans. New York: Oxford University Press, 1984.

Kakakhel, S. Bahadur Shah Zafar. Pukhtana Da Tarikh Pa Rana Kay. Peshawar: University Book Agency, 1965.



ISSN Print : 2709-4154

Volume.6, Issue.3 (2023) (October- December)

Khalil Zai, Arbab Abdul Hadi. Da Khalilo Arbaban. Peshawar: Aryana Kutub Khana, 1999.

Khan, Ghaffar. Zama Zhwand au Jaddo Jehad Kabul: Salim Babak Publishers, 1983.

Khan, Sardar Sher M. Tarikh-i-Pashtoon. Karachi: Sheikh Shaukat Ali & Sons, 1979.

Mac Gill, Stephan. Politics and Society. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Rashid, Brig. Haroon-ur-. History of the Pathans Vol-III. Islamabad: Paramount Book Publisher, 2002.

Sabir, Muhammad Shafi. Shakhsi'yaat-e-Sarhad. Peshawar: University Book Agency, 1992.

Government Archive:

Assembly Debates "Records Section" Northwest Frontier Province (KP) Provincial Assembly Peshawar. (February 2017).

C & W Division Peshawar, KP Annual Progress Reports of Developmental Schemes for the years 1993-94, 1997-98 (May 2017).

Newspapers:

Abbas, Ghulam. "Death Un-Mourned" The daily Frontier Post (Peshawar), dated 18th November 2003.

Ahmad, Waqar. "Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman Khalil-Eik Hamma Jehat Shaksiyat", The Daily Mashriq (Peshawar), dated 5th October 2003.

Shahid, Salman. "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ki Siyasat Awar Arbab Khandaan Ki Khidmaat" The Daily Express (Peshawar), dated 16th September 2014.

Unpublished Sources:

Diary:

Khalil, Arbab Saif-ur-Rahman. Personal Diary. Arbab House, Tatara Colony Rahatabad, Peshawar, 1954-2003.

Interviews:

Abbas, Arbab Saif Ul. (2nd Son) at Rahatabad, Peshawar, dated 19th August 2016.

Haider, Arbab Saif Ul. (Elder Son) at Rahatabad, Peshawar, dated 24th September 2016.

Jamal, Arbab Saif Ul. (4th Son) at University of Agriculture, Peshawar, dated 20th December 2016.

Kamal, Arbab Saif Ul. (3rd Son) at Rahatabad, Peshawar, dated 12th October 2016.

Khalil, Bakhtiar Khan. at village Lakarai Palosi, Peshawar, dated 28th January 2017.



ISSN Print : 2709-4154

Volume.6, Issue.3 (2023) (October- December)

Khalil, Farid Ullah Khan. at village Gharibabad, Peshawar, dated 26th January 2017.

Khalil, Humayun Khan. at village Spina Warrai, Peshawar, dated 27th January 2017.

Khalil, Iftikhar Khan. at University of Agriculture, Peshawar, dated 22nd February 2017.

Khalil, Izhar Khan. at village Paoka, Peshawar, dated 12th February 2017.

Khalil, Shah Jehan Khan. at Forest Bazar, near Agriculture University, Peshawar, dated 27th February 2017.

Khan, Arbab Qadir Hayyat. (Cousin) at Rahatabad, Peshawar, dated 16th April 2016.

Khan, Humayun Saif Ullah. (Ex-MPA) at University Town Peshawar, dated 14th December 2016.

Khan, Pir Fayyaz. at University Town, Peshawar, dated 24th February 2017.

Khumaini, Arbab Ayat Ullah. at Peshawar High Court, Peshawar, dated, 11th December 2016.

Qadir, Arbab Altaf. (Nephew) at Rahatabad, Peshawar, dated 26th September 2016.

Thesis:

Ali, Iqtidar. "The Khalils in District Peshawar." M.A Thesis, Pakistan Study Centre, University of Peshawar, Session 1994-96.

Kanwal, Sadia. "Arbab Sikandar Khan Khalil-A Profile." M.A. Thesis, Pakistan Study Centre, University of Peshawar, Session 1999-2001.

Khan, Jahan Zeb. "Arbab Abdul Ghafoor Khan of Tehkal Bala." M.A Thesis, Pakistan Study Centre, University of Peshawar, Session 1982-84.