

HTML Newspaper Recreation: Technical Explanation

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1 Code Structure Overview

The project is built using a clean HTML5 boilerplate. The primary container is a `<div>` element styled to act as the newspaper sheet, using a parchment-style background (`#f4e4bc`) and nested double-line borders (`4px double #332b1d`). This creates the vintage "broadsheet" appearance required for a 1948 archive recreation. To ensure compliance with assignment rules, all styling is applied via inline CSS.

2 Key Sections

Header: The `<header>` tag encapsulates the newspaper masthead. It includes the registration details, established date, and a text-based logo. Below this, a semantic `<nav>` element provides navigation links, followed by a volume and date banner which uses flexbox for precise alignment.

Main Content (Table Layout): As specified in the requirements, a `<table>` with a 64% to 36% width ratio is used to manage the multi-column layout. The left column contains the "World of Islam" news reports, while the right column acts as a sidebar for pricing and literature.

News Articles: Individual stories are wrapped in semantic `<article>` tags. Each article includes a heading hierarchy (`<h3>`), float-aligned images, and rephrased body text.

Footer: The semantic `<footer>` tag includes the printing and publishing credits (Khwaja Abdul Wahid Intezami Press) and the editor's name, styled with a heavy double-top border.

3 Design Decisions

- **Tables vs. Divs:** While `divs` are used for internal layout (like the masthead metadata), a `<table>` was chosen for the primary column structure to guarantee a stable 2-column view without the risk of column wrapping, which is critical in a CSS-restricted environment.
- **Semantic Tags:** I utilized tags like `<aside>` for the pricing box and `<section>` to group major departments. This ensures the document is semantically meaningful and satisfies technical grading criteria.
- **Typography:** A combination of Georgia (for headlines) and Times New Roman (for body text) was used via inline styles to replicate the classic serif typography of mid-20th-century newspapers.

4 Challenges and Solutions

The primary challenge was replicating the dense, handwritten Urdu masthead using standard system fonts. I solved this by using a high-impact font size (95px) and specific letter-spacing to maintain the authority of a newspaper title. Another challenge was repositioning the Pricing list above the Adabiyat section within a fixed table cell; this was solved by grouping the price list into an `aside` element and placing it physically before the poetry article in the HTML source code.