



POSITIVE POST



Greenwich University

A Publication by Department of Mass Communication & Media Studies and the Diplomatic Academy

Pakistan's standing in the global rankings

Overview

Pakistan observed a slight improvement in the overall international rankings in 2021 covering socio-economic and political outcomes of the country. Several elements complemented the prospects including successful democratic transition, efficient counter-terrorism measures leading to enhanced peace and security, and foreign direct investment inflows under CPEC, among others. Albeit, decoupling economic growth from human development suggests that the country needs to enhance its scores in health, education and standard of living by ensuring political will, equitable financing and efficient governance to ensure parallel growth for marginalized segments as well. Civil and political liberties must grow hand in hand to ensure a conducive environment for democratic dialogue and accountability which ultimately supports its nation building process.

DEMOCRACY INDEX

Pakistan was placed at the 104th spot among 167 states on the global Democracy Index 2021, compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

Index from 0 (authoritarian regime) to 10 (full democracy)

Compiled based on indicators covering: Electoral process and pluralism, Civil liberties, Functioning of government, Political participation, and Political culture.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Pakistan ranked 161 out of 192 countries in the Human Development Index scoring 2022 0.562 out of 1.000 in 2018 compared to 0.560 out of 1.000 in 2017.

Index from 0 (low development) to 1 (very high development)

Compiled based on indicators covering: life expectancy, education, and per capita income

PRESS FREEDOM INDEX

Pakistan's press freedom rank dropped to 145 out of 180 countries in the Press Freedom Index, An annual ranking of countries published by Reporters Without Borders (RWB), an international non-governmental organization dedicated to safeguard the right to freedom of information.

Compiled based on indicators covering: pluralism, media independence, environment and self-censorship, legislative framework, transparency, and infrastructure.

TERRORISM INDEX

Terrorism Index in Pakistan decreased to 7.83 in 2021 from 7.92 in 2020.

Index from 0 (lowest impact) to 10 (highest impact)

Compiled based on indicators covering : Total number of terrorist incidents in a given year, total number of fatalities caused by terrorism in a given year, total number of injuries caused by terrorism in a given year and the approximate level of total property damage from terrorist incidents in a given year.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX

In 2021, index of economic freedom for Pakistan was 51.7 score. Though Pakistan index of economic freedom fluctuated substantially in recent years, it tended to decrease through 2002 - 2021 period ending at 51.7 score in 2021.

Compiled based on indicators covering: Market openness, Regulatory efficiency, Government size and the rule of law.

Positive Post is a strategic effort to project achievement and contributions of Pakistan. While showcasing Greenwich University's cultural diplomacy initiatives, it also encapsulates a compilation of different developments complementing Pakistan's socio-cultural, economic & Political outcomes

Historic August

14 August 1947: Pakistan got independence.

14 August 1947: Constituent Assembly of Pakistan approve.

14 August, 1947: Pakistan became independent. Quaid-a-Azam took oath as the first Governor General of Pakistan. Liaquat Ali Khan took oath as the first Prime minister of Pakistan. This is followed by the migration of 10 million people, Muslims to Pakistan, Hindus and Sikhs to India.

21 August, 1951: Pakistan and India agree on the boundary pact between East Bengal and West Bengal.

1 August, 1960: Islamabad is declared as the principal seat of the Government of Pakistan.

11 August, 1973: Chaudhry Fazal Ilahi is elected as president.

14 August, 1973: Zulfikar Ali Bhutto becomes prime minister. Constitution of Pakistan 1973 promulgated.

14 August, 2000: New Local Government system installed, after holding of elections in three phases.

24 August, 2002: President General Musharraf issues the Legal Framework Order 2002.

28 August, 2004: Shaukat Aziz becomes Prime Minister.

1 August, 2017: Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was sworn in as prime minister, succeeding Nawaz Sharif.

12 August, 2023: Anwaar ul Haq Kakar was sworn in as the eighth Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan.

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PM calls for national unity under 'Misaq-e-Istehkam-e-Pakistan' on 78th Independence Day

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif urged all political parties, stakeholders, and civil society members to unite under a new national charter, Misaq-e-Istehkam-e-Pakistan (Charter for Stability of Pakistan), as the nation celebrates 78th Independence Day and military success against India in Marka-e-Haq.

Addressing a ceremony in the federal capital, attended by President Asif Ali Zardari and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir as guests of honour, he said that the time had come to rise above political divisions, personal interests, and hollow slogans in pursuit of national unity.

“On this historic day, I once again invite all political parties, stakeholders, and civil society to become part of the Misaq-e-Istehkam-e-Pakistan. This is not merely a continuation of the Misaq-e-Maishat, but a broader commitment to national interest — so the world may witness that while our differences remain, we stand united for our beloved Pakistan,” the premier said.

Dedicating this year's Independence Day to the country's military success in Marka-e-Haq, Sharif said the aggression launched by India under a false narrative had been met with a resolute response. “They believed they could defeat Pakistan, but forgot that wars are not won by weapons alone. It is the courage and valor of those who dare to face the battlefield that secures victory,” he added.

PM Shehbaz praised the leadership of Field Marshal Munir and other top military commanders for what he termed a “swift and decisive response” to India's recent provocation.

“In just four days, India was reduced to dust, as it faced a determined military backed by brave and capable commanders — Field Marshal Asim Munir, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Babar, and the Naval Chief. Under their command, soldiers taught India a



historic lesson that future generations will remember,” he said.

He stated that the military strategy devised under Field Marshal Munir had been widely recognised by both allies and adversaries. “Just as a new state was born on 14 August 1947, a renewed nation rose on 10 May 2025. Marka-e-Haq proved our ability to defend the hard-won freedom secured by our forefathers,” he added.

The PM also announced the establishment of a new military division, the Army Rocket Force Command, which, he said, would be equipped with advanced technology and multi-directional capabilities. The force, he added, would significantly strengthen Pakistan's conventional warfare capacity.

Reaffirming Pakistan's strategic position as the world's seventh and only Muslim nuclear power, he said the country's nuclear programme had always been a deterrent, not a symbol of aggression. “Our nuclear capability was developed solely to counterbalance India's nuclear ambitions and to strengthen our national deterrence,” he added.

Sharif paid tribute to the vision of former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and the contributions of Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, scientists, engineers, and the armed forces, noting that their sacrifices and efforts would be “remembered in golden words.”

Acknowledging the role of Pa-

kistan's international partners during the recent military escalation, the premier said the support extended by “trusted and brotherly nations” played a crucial role.

“Our friends rejected India's baseless propaganda and stood by Pakistan on the diplomatic front. We are especially grateful to China, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Azerbaijan, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Iran for their clear and consistent support,” he added.

The PM also expressed gratitude to US President Donald Trump for what he described as a constructive role in facilitating a ceasefire during heightened tensions.

“I thank President Donald Trump and his team for playing a positive and meaningful role in securing a ceasefire. I sincerely hope that he will also support the resolution of the Kashmir dispute in line with United Nations resolutions and the principles of justice,” he added.

Earlier, the ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by an impressive tri-services parade by the Pakistan Army, Navy, and Air Force, showcasing military precision and national pride. The programme included special cultural performances, a flypast, and a parade by the armed forces.

Military contingents from Türkiye and Azerbaijan also participated in the celebrations, symbolising strong ties with friendly nations. A large number of na-

tional and international dignitaries were present at the event, which was broadcast live across various platforms.

Operation Marka-e-Haq

Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after the April 22 attack in Pahalgam, Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), which killed 26 people. India blamed Pakistan-based elements for the assault but provided no evidence. Islamabad strongly denied the allegations.

The Pakistan Armed Forces conducted Operation Bunyanum Marsoos on May 10 as part of the military conflict ‘Marka-e-Haq’ in response to Indian military's dastardly attacks that began on the night of May 6 and 7, resulting in the loss of innocent civilian lives, including women, children, and the elderly.

The confrontation erupted on May 6–7 as India launched its attack against Pakistan, that spiralled into the gravest military clash between the neighbors in decades. Dozens were killed before diplomacy prevailed.

Despite repeated warnings from the Pakistani government, India, fueled by its media's war-driven rhetoric, continued provocative actions, including frequent drone incursions, which ultimately prompted Pakistan to retaliate.

Pakistan intercepted multiple BrahMos supersonic missiles before launching the military operation on May 10, deploying its Al-Fatah missile system and targeting multiple Indian military installations. Key targets included BrahMos storage facilities at Beas and S-400 air defence systems at Adampur and Bhuj.

Moreover, the Pakistan Air Force shot down six Indian jets, including French Rafale, and carried out strikes on several Indian airbases. Following these developments, India requested intervention from US President Donald Trump, which ultimately led to a ceasefire agreement between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Dar, Rubio discuss bilateral, regional issues

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a telephonic conversation with the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio to discuss bilateral relations and regional developments, according to an official statement.

The two leaders discussed a range of bilateral matters and exchanged views on current regional and international issues, according to a Foreign Office (FO) statement.

Both sides agreed to remain in contact and continue cooperation in areas of mutual interest, it added.

The deputy premier's talk with

Secretary Rubio comes amid a renewed push for improved relations between the two countries.

Last month, Mr Dar held talks with Rubio at the State Department in their first in-person meeting, accompanied by Pakistan's Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh and senior officials. Talks covered a wide range of sectors, including trade, investment, agriculture, technology, and minerals.

In June, US President Donald Trump hosted Pakistan's army chief for an unprecedented lunch at the White House, where the two sides discussed the Iran-Israel conflict and other strategic issues. Only last week, Pakistan an-



nounced it had finalised a "landmark" trade deal with the United States, aimed at reducing tariffs and strengthening economic co-operation.

Trump separately unveiled a partnership to help develop Pakistan's oil reserves.

He announced the new deal with Pakistan for the joint development

of Pakistan's oil reserves, calling it part of broader trade discussions between the two countries.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said the US is in the process of selecting a company to lead the project and jokingly added that Pakistan might eventually sell oil to India.

Courtesy: Dawn

PM directs FBR to eliminate bureaucratic barriers



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to ensure the full implementation of reforms by removing bureaucratic hurdles and institutional barriers. Chairing a weekly review meeting on proposed reforms within the FBR, PM Shehbaz also expressed satisfaction over the increase in the country's tax-to-GDP ratio, which rose from 8.83 per cent in FY24 to 10.24pc in FY25, its highest level in 23 years. He attributed the improvement to the implementation of structural reforms in the tax machinery.

An official announcement said the premier reaffirmed that he, along with the federal government, will fully support and safeguard the reform initiatives undertaken by the relevant authorities.

The premier was informed that the FBR has achieved its tax collection target for the first month (July 2025) of the current fiscal year and is expected to achieve its targets in the coming months as well.

Officials also briefed the meet-

ing on the updated income tax return form, now available online in Urdu via the FBR website. The new form is designed to be more user-friendly and accessible, which is expected to benefit approximately 84pc of return filers. According to the announcement, PM Shehbaz also stressed the need for uniform and effective enforcement of "revolutionary" customs clearance reforms across the country.

The prime minister emphasised that integrating technology into the customs clearance reform agenda should substantially reduce procedural delays and improve institutional efficiency.

He urged both federal and provincial governments to maintain close coordination and adopt a unified strategy to preserve the momentum in tax collection achieved through FBR-led reforms in the upcoming fiscal year. He noted that the effective enforcement of existing tax measures would be critical to further boosting revenue.

Courtesy: Dawn

Heavy glacial flood rages through Hunza

A glacial lake outburst flood (Glof) from Shisper Glacier swelled the Hassanabad Nullah in Hunza, damaging infrastructure, and putting dozens of mountain-side homes at risk in the mountainous region of Gilgit-Baltistan. Officials said the heavy flood eroded the protective walls of the Karakoram Highway (KKH) and damaged farmland. Due to land erosion caused by the nullah, dozens of houses are at risk in case of such events in the future.



According to the Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA), the flood damaged the newly constructed retaining wall and a portion of the Karakoram Highway. Though the highway is open to all types of traffic, the damaged section has been sealed off for safety measures.

The authority said a significant area of cultivable land, along with standing crops and trees, had been wiped out in the flood, while the electricity supply to Hassanabad was also disrupted. Similarly, a

property owned by the Forest Department had suffered damage while a portion of Frontier Works Organisation's land adjacent to a bridge also sustained damage.

Locals said that four houses downstream were dismantled in time to save them from the flood. Last month, a similar Glof event damaged four houses, agricultural land, trees, and public and private properties.

The authority requested the National Highway Authority (NHA) to urgently visit the site to assess the damaged section and inspect other vulnerable parts of the road. Community Based Disaster Risk Management Committee members, GBDMA staff, and other volunteers were actively monitoring the situation on the site and supporting community preparedness and response efforts. On the other hand, the Gilgit-Shandur Road remained closed off for the seventh day in Khotom village of the Phander valley, stranding thousands of people in the area.

On the other hand, the Pakistan Meteorological Department on Thursday afternoon issued a warning for heavy rain across Azad Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Courtesy: Dawn

PM Shehbaz vows support as monsoon batters GB, AJK



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reaffirmed the federal government's full support for relief and recovery efforts in flood-hit Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

Chairing a high-level meeting to review the monsoon damage, the prime minister ordered an urgent overhaul of the Pakistan Meteorological Department's early warning infrastructure to make it more proactive and effective.

He also directed authorities to restore and repair road and communication networks on an emergency basis to ensure timely aid delivery and mobility in affected areas.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, the meeting focused on immediate relief efforts, future disaster preparedness and federal assistance to the affected regions.

Expressing sorrow over the loss of lives and widespread destruction caused by torrential rains, PM Shehbaz reiterated his government's solidarity with the people of GB and AJK.

"The federal government stands shoulder to shoulder with the administrations and citizens of Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir in this hour of grief," he said. "I will soon visit Gilgit-Baltistan to express solidarity with the victims and a comprehensive federal relief package will be announced to support recovery and rehabilitation efforts."

The prime minister directed all federal departments to coordinate with regional authorities to conduct swift damage assessments and prioritise life-saving interventions. He stressed the need for a

coordinated and rapid response to minimise further losses and ensure timely assistance to those affected. During the briefing, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik informed the premier that monsoon-related disasters had caused 295 deaths and over 700 injuries nationwide. More than 1,600 homes have been destroyed and 376 livestock lost. He also warned of continued flood threats in rivers and streams, noting potential minor flooding at Tarbela, Chashma, Taunsa and Kalabagh, and moderate flood levels at Head Marala and Guddu on the Chenab River. He cautioned that monsoon activity is expected to intensify towards the end of August.

The meeting was attended by AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, GB Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Minister for Climate Change Dr Musadik Malik and Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, among others.

Separately, Minister for National Health Services Syed Mustafa Kamal called on PM Shehbaz on Friday to brief him on ongoing projects and reform efforts in the health sector. The meeting also covered other matters related to the Ministry of Health, according to a statement from the PM's Office.

Tragedies mount in GB

In Gilgit-Baltistan's Haron area, four members of a family drowned in the Ghizer River while trying to rescue a man reported to be mentally unwell, who had jumped into the water. Rescue 1122 officials said that one family member was rescued, while two women and a man remain missing.

GB government spokesperson

Faizullah Faraq said Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan has ordered all available resources to be deployed in the search and rescue operation.

In a separate incident, a glacier burst in Bagrot Valley on Friday led to the death of a 12-year-old boy, while his father was injured. The pair had been crossing the glacier in Barchi village on foot when it collapsed.

The GB spokesperson confirmed they fell into a ravine and were buried under debris. The father was rescued after several hours by locals and Rescue 1122.

While a billion-rupee early warning system had been installed in the area under the UNDP-funded Glof-II Project, it failed to function during the incident.

Opposition leader from the constituency, Syed Sohail Abbas Shah, alleged large-scale corruption in the implementation of early warning and protection projects, accusing both the government and international organisations.

Emergency declared

Spokesperson Fai-zullah Faraq announced that an emergency has been imposed across GB. He urged the federal government to step in and assist with flood relief and the rehabilitation of affected people.

Fresh flash floods have struck the Khanbari area of Diamer district, destroying standing crops, farmland and irrigation infrastructure. The search continues for the 11th day for missing tourists along the Babusar Highway.

PM Shehbaz is expected to visit GB soon.

Courtesy: Dawn

Inaugural flight from Zahedan to Quetta

The inaugural flight of Iran Air, launched by the Iranian government between Quetta and Zahedan, successfully operated.

An Airbus A-319 arrived at the Quetta International Airport at 09:15pm, and after a stay of over two-hours, departed for Zahedan, the capital of Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province, at 11:30pm with 75 passengers on board.

Initially, the Iran Air will operate one flight per week between Quetta and Zahedan, with the frequency potentially increasing based on passenger demand.



A ceremony was held at the Quetta airport to mark the occasion, which was attended by the counsel general and officials of the Iranian Consulate in Quetta, a number of people from the business community and representatives from the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Quetta airport manager Waheed Shah, terminal manager Ismail Khoso, and the chief security officer of ASF were present to see off the passengers.

Last month, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistani pilgrims will be barred from travelling by road to Iran and Iraq for Arbaceen due to security concerns.

In his social media post, Naqvi said, "After extensive consultations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Balochistan Government and security agencies, it has been decided that Zaireen will not be allowed to travel to Iraq and Iran by road for Arbaceen this year."

Courtesy: Dawn

Shifting climate gives pause to daredevil alpinist

For mountaineers, the mighty peaks in Gilgit-Baltistan's Karakoram range became unusually precarious this year due to changing weather patterns, which have brought with them an increase in avalanches, rockfalls and other life-threatening hazards.

The mountains are comparatively dry, having lost much snow cover, and hence prone to avalanches sometimes several times a day.

Baqir Ali, a mountain guide with four decades of experience, said he had never experienced such conditions on the peaks in his entire career.

A resident of Shigar's Askole village, Mr Ali was part of Laura Dahlmeier's team. The German Olympian recently perished after being struck by a rockfall at Laila Peak (6,096m).

"Several days before the incident, a French expedition team had cancelled their plan to attempt to climb Laila Peak due to the unfavourable weather conditions at the peak," the 56-year-old told.

He said he had asked the German climber to do the same, but she continued her ascent in the alpine style and at an altitude of 5,700m, she became the victim of falling rocks on July 28.

These precarious conditions made Hungary's László Csomor abandon his expedition to Broad Peak (8,050 m) after more than a month and return to Skardu.

His seven-member team had been at the base camp since June 27, hoping to summit the mountain. They, however, decided to call off the adventure, like more than two hundred climbers who had come to Pakistan to ascend its mighty peaks.

"This year, there was less snow at all mountains; rockfall was unusual; we would hear the sound of rockfall and snow avalanches 10 times in a day while sitting at the base camp," László said, adding that he climbed to Camp 3 twice, but could not start the summit push due to bad weather. He blamed these conditions



on less snow cover, saying that with enough snow, such threats diminish.

He said more than 90 climbers had been waiting at the base camp to summit K-2, while 30 mountaineers had been waiting to begin the Broad Peak adventure for the last month. Both peaks share the same base camp. Most of them have had to return with heavy hearts, as the climbing season for the Karakoram peaks nears its end.

László was also a witness to two accidents during his stay at the base camp – on July 11, Polish climber Waldemar Kowalewski fractured his leg in an avalanche on Broad Peak at 6,500m; while on July 19, porter Iftikhar Sadpara lost his life in a similar incident on K2's Camp 1, located 500m above the base camp.

At least three people were killed and five were injured in such incidents during this season.

New challenges

"These conditions at the Karakoram range were new, and it was also challenging to climb the peaks because the snow was steep and unstable," László said, adding that a decrease in snowfall made the slopes and hanging rocks prone to falls and avalanches, while crevasses had become bigger.

High winds also made the climb difficult. The foreign climber believed these changes were linked to climate change.

Mingma G, owner of Imagine Nepal and a renowned climber, also abandoned his Gasherbrum-II summit attempt due to avalanche risks. Traditionally, the climbing season for these peaks spans late June to mid-August. But this year, the risks are unusually high, forcing scores to abandon their summits.

"The weather at the peaks is not normal this year," said Iqbal Qadri, a tour operator. Mr Qadri told Dawn that K2, Broad Peak, Gasherbrum-II and many other seven-thousanders remained unclimbed in the summer, while a few summits at Gasherbrum-I and Nanga Parbat were recorded.

He said some climbers were still at the K2 base camp, to try their luck. However, the season is over and this summer, none of the climbers could move past Camp 3 on K2.

This year, about 22 climbers, including five Pakistanis, scaled Gasherbrum-I (8,080 m) on July 20 and July 22, whereas at least 24 mountaineers, including foreigners, summited Nanga Parbat (8,126m) in the Himalayas.

Distressing situation

Veteran Russian climber Denis Urubko and his wife Maria Cardell summited Nanga Parbat in alpine style while also charting a new route for ascent in July. Currently, he is in Skardu and plans to scale K2 via a new route. However, he said the situation in the mountains was distressing.

"Glaciers and snow on mountains

are melting fast, crevasses are becoming larger, and rockfall occurrences have become routine in the GB mountains," Mr Urubko said. He said the "classical route" to summit Nanga Parbat had also become a dangerous route due to speedy snowmelt, adding that these factors had made risks in the mountains higher than usual.

A senior government expert blamed these conditions on changes in the snowfall patterns induced by global warming. He said the region received snow late in the year, and it could not be converted into ice before the summer and thus remained unstable. In addition to that, the heatwave in June and July exacerbated the situation, leading to an unusual number of avalanches.

Livelihoods in danger

As mountains become precarious for climbers, the livelihoods of those who are linked to the tourism industry have also taken a hit. Out of 400 applications received by the GB tourism department, only over 200 climbers from multiple countries arrived to attempt summits, almost 50 per cent down from the previous year.

Thousands of people, including transporters, shopkeepers, hotel owners, porters, mountain guides, and tour operators, depend on the industry for income. Fida Hussain, a high-altitude porter from Shigar, feared that with the reduction of adventure tourism activities, they would also be left without jobs and income.

Courtesy: Dawn

UK Pakistani student Mahnoor sets world record with 24 A-Levels

Bright British Pakistani student Mahnoor Cheema has made several new world records in her A-Level examinations by completing an astonishing 24 A-Levels with distinctions taking her straight into Exeter College at the prestigious University of Oxford. In total, Mahnoor Cheema, 18, has made four new global records in her A-Level results and six global records when combining her accomplishments at GCSE and A-Level. For the last year, Mahnoor studied at home, without any tuition or external support.



Mahnoor Cheema has completed 24 A-Level subjects along with an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), setting a new world record for the most individual A-Level subjects taken and passed with distinction by any student worldwide. In the past, records have been made by repeating subjects or components across exam boards in order to boost the total numbers. However, Mahnoor Cheema only undertook independent subjects under one exam board, leading to an individual world record. Mahnoor

Cheema's second new individual world record is getting the highest number of A* and A grades in her A-Levels, having achieved a total of 19 A* and A grades, setting a new benchmark for academic excellence. Mahnoor's third world record is a combined GCSE/O-Level and A-Level record. The British-Pakistani student has earned 11 A* grades in A-Levels and had previously secured 34 A* grades in GCSEs/O Levels, making a combined total of 45 A* grades, which is the highest number of A* grades ever awarded to any student in

secondary education worldwide. Mahnoor's fourth world record is also a combined one. With 24 A-Level and 34 GCSE subjects under her belt, Mahnoor holds the record for a total of 58 individual subjects taken and passed with distinction, the most by any student in the world.

In 2023, Mahnoor, 16 at the time, passed an astonishing 34 subjects at the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) level, making a new world record. Mahnoor's fifth and sixth world records were earned during her GCSEs. She holds a world record for passing 17 subjects with

A* grades during Year 10, an outstanding feat, as well as 34 A* in her GCSEs overall. Speaking to mediapersons at her home in Langley, West London, Mahnoor Cheema shared that she woke up delighted when she received an email from the University of Oxford confirming her place to read Medicine and welcoming her to the University. The genius student told, "I am over the moon. It's been a childhood dream of mine and I'm so glad to see it being fulfilled. I'll be joining Oxford in October and I'm obviously very excited to start the next chapter of my life.

Courtesy: The Nation



282nd Urs of Sufi saint , poet Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai begins

The 282nd Urs of Sindh's revered Sufi saint and poet, Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai (RA), was inaugurated today with a Fatiha and chadar-laying at his shrine by Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi and Provincial Minister for Culture Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah. Speaking to the media afterwards, Governor KPK Faisal Karim Kundi said that despite past wars imposed by India, Pakistan has consistently advocated peace and pursued Kashmir's cause vigorously on diplomatic fronts. He asserted that the political future of PTI is finished, claiming the public has rejected its narrative. The Governor said India misjudged Pakistan's military and economic capabilities and sought aggression, but the Pakistan Air Force responded decisively within minutes, silencing the enemy. He lauded national unity from Sindh to Chitral during the conflict, paying tribute



to the sacrifices of martyrs and the bravery shown by the armed forces on all fronts. Governor Kundi added that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the Prime Minister carried Kashmir's case to the international arena through state visits, successfully diplomatically isolating India.

Sindh govt launches AI-Based online Teacher Training program
He commended Pakistani me-

dia for playing a responsible role, while accusing Indian media of contradictory narratives. Warning against spoilers, the governor said elements that sow discord indulge in negative politics at every key national moment. He called for coordinated action by security forces, police and the public to eradicate terrorism, and urged the state to impose the toughest punishments on those who attack state installations to establish an

effective system of law and order. On the political situation, he said there is no conspiracy to topple the government though the opposition retains its constitutional rights. He repeated his view that PTI leadership has lost public support, their gatherings are failing, and the nation seeks development, peace and stability.

Provincial Minister for Culture Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah paid tribute to Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai's longstanding advocacy for women's rights and his message of peace and brotherhood that unites people. He announced that Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfaraz Bugti will attend the second day of the urs tomorrow, and thanked Governor Kundi for joining the inaugural ceremony today, noting that observance of the urs during Independence celebrations adds to its significance

Courtesy: The Nation

Muniba Mazari joins Global Elite as UN SDG Advocate

Pakistan's 'Iron Lady,' Muniba Mazari, has climbed yet another historic milestone. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres has named her a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocate, placing her among a select circle of world leaders and changemakers championing the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The appointment, made official on March 24, 2025, propels Mazari — already celebrated as UN Women's National Goodwill Ambassador, an acclaimed artist, and a fearless human rights activist — into the highest ranks of global advocacy. She now stands shoulder-to-shoulder with global heavyweights such as the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley, and Queen Mathilde of Belgium, who are already serving as SDG Advocates. "Muniba is an inspiration to many and a prominent voice on inclusion and gender equality," wrote Secretary-General Guterres in his official note. "Her leadership and resilience symbol-



ize the very spirit of the SDGs. I urge her to bring this vision to the global stage and mobilize the world for action." Mazari, paralysed from the waist down after a devastating car accident at the age of 21, has since risen as one of Pakistan's most powerful voices on resilience, women's empowerment, and social justice. Today, she adds her name to a roster of world influencers shaping global conversations on climate, gender, education, and equality. Speaking on her appointment, Mazari said:

CDWP approves 7 development projects worth Rs236 billion "This is not just an honour — it's a responsibility. I will use my platform to amplify the voices of those who are unheard and push for a fairer, more compassionate, and more sustainable world. Together, we can accelerate progress for people and the planet." UN Women Pakistan's Country Representative, Jamshed M. Kazi, hailed the move as a proud moment for Pakistan. "Muniba embodies courage and equality. As UN Women's

Goodwill Ambassador, she has already transformed narratives around inclusion and gender. Now, as an SDG Advocate, she carries Pakistan's voice to the global stage — inspiring change not just locally but worldwide." With this appointment, Mazari becomes one of the very few South Asian women at the forefront of the UN's global advocacy platform — an achievement likely to inspire countless others across the region and beyond. The United Nations in Pakistan and UN Women Pakistan have celebrated the announcement as a landmark recognition of Mazari's tireless efforts. Her role is expected to drive new momentum around the SDGs, with a focus on gender equality, social inclusion, and human rights. As Pakistan faces challenges ranging from climate resilience to gender disparities, Mazari's appointment signals a stronger South Asian presence in shaping the world's sustainability agenda.

Courtesy: The Nation

Pakistan approves first ferry service licence

While a large number of pilgrims en route to Iraq have been stranded due to a sudden ban on land travel to Iran, the government has approved the first ferry service licence.

Applications by ferry operators have been pending since 2017-18. Taking a fast-track route, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs on Monday approved the first ferry service licence to an international ferry operator.

The UK-based company 'Sea Keeper' will operate ferry routes connecting Pakistan with Iran and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

The government is under serious pressure from around one million pilgrims who attend Arbæen (Chehlum of Imam Hussain) in Karbala, as land travel to Iran has been stopped without any notice recently.

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid An-

war Chaudhry has led the move by fast-track approval to ferry service operators who had filed applications in 2017 and 2018.

The minister emphasised that ferry service will not only provide the pilgrims going to Iraq and Iran a safe and secure travel but it also provides an opportunity for boosting regional connectivity as well as economic activity via sea routes.

"Initial operations will commence from the ports of Karachi and Gwadar using modern ferry vessels equipped with essential amenities to ensure safe, affordable travel. Expansion of routes and port calls is planned based on demand and bilateral agreements", the minister said in a statement.

This ferry service launch forms part of Pakistan's broader strategy to develop its blue economy, improve trade logistics, and promote maritime tourism, reflecting a renewed commitment to sustainable regional sea transport infra-



structure, the minister stated.

Sources in the Ministry of Maritime Affairs confirmed that more ferry services licences are expected to be issued in near future as the licence committee was scrutinising the cases.

The Licensing Committee comprises officials from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, and representatives from the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) and port and shipping authorities.

The PNSC will be the regulator of ferry companies ensuring the

technical aspect of ships and their services.

Meanwhile, a senior official of Karachi Port Trust told Dawn that the ferry terminal has already been established at the Karachi port.

Once the relevant formalities are notified, the terminal will be handed over to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for immigration and passport duties.

Other relevant departments, including Customs and security agencies, will also deploy staff at the ferry terminals in both Karachi and Gwadar.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan face UAE in Sharjah as T20 tri-series heats up

The second match of the ongoing T20 tri-series takes place today at Sharjah Cricket Stadium, with Pakistan squaring off against hosts United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Pakistan head into the clash with momentum, having outclassed Afghanistan by 39 runs in the series opener on Friday. Skipper Salman Ali Agha led from the front with an unbeaten 53 off 36

balls, guiding his side to 182 for 7, before Haris Rauf's fiery spell of 4 for 31 bundled Afghanistan out for 143.

UAE captain Mohammad Wasim expressed optimism about his team's prospects, highlighting both experience and young talent in the squad. "Playing against two of Asia's strongest teams is a proud milestone for us. We have

already beaten Afghanistan, New Zealand, and Bangladesh, and we're eager to continue building on that," he said.

He added that the UAE's six weeks of preparation, coupled with the confidence of recent performances, have set the side up well to compete at Sharjah.

UN Security Council condemns Israeli strikes targeting Qatar For Pakistan, the series is an important tune-up ahead of the Asia Cup, scheduled in Abu Dhabi and Dubai from September 9 to 28. After a dominant start, Salman Ali Agha's men will look to further refine their game under lights in Sharjah.

Squads

Pakistan: Salman Ali Agha (captain), Abrar Ahmed, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Haris

Rauf, Hasan Ali, Hasan Nawaz, Hussain Talat, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Haris (wk), Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Waseem Jnr, Sahibzada Farhan, Saim Ayub, Salman Mirza, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Sufyan Moqim. UAE: Mohammad Wasim (captain), Vriitya Aravind (wk), Rohan Mustafa, Basil Hameed, CP Rizwan, Alishan Sharafu, Aayan Afzal Khan, Zahoor Khan, Junaid Siddique, Karthik Meiyappan, Akif Raja, Aryan Lakra, Sanchit Sharma, Ansh Tandon, Rahul Chopra, Fahad Nawaz, Sultan Ahmed.

The tri-series, featuring Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the UAE, concludes on September 7 with a final between the top two sides, with all games staged under lights at Sharjah.

Courtesy: The Nation



Salman, Rauf shine as Pakistan outclass Afghanistan in Tri-Nation opener

Pakistan produced a commanding all-round display to outclass Afghanistan by 39 runs in the opening match of the Tri-Nation T20I Series at Sharjah.

Led by captain Salman Ali Agha's unbeaten 53 and a fiery spell from Haris Rauf (4-31), Pakistan proved too strong for their rivals in the series curtain-raiser. Chasing a stiff 183-run target, Afghanistan faltered against Pakistan's pace and spin combination. Rahmanullah Gurbaz (38 off 27) gave them a flying start, and skipper Rashid Khan (39 off 16, 1 four, 5 sixes) later threatened a late comeback with an explosive cameo. But regular wickets at the other end derailed the chase.

Shaheen Shah Afridi (2-21) struck early, while M Nawaz (2-23) removed Gurbaz and Omarzai to stall momentum. Young

spinner Sufiyan Muqeem (2-25) further tightened the screws. The star of the innings was Haris Rauf, who broke Afghanistan's backbone with a lethal spell, claiming 4-31. Afghanistan were eventually bundled out for 143 in 19.5 overs, handing Pakistan a convincing 39-run win.

Earlier asked to bat first, Pakistan posted a competitive total of 182-7 in their 20 overs, riding on skipper Salman Ali Agha's unbeaten 53 off 36 balls. Pakistan got off to a brisk start courtesy of Sahibzada Farhan, who smashed 21 off just 10 balls with a six and a four. Partner Saim Ayub could score 14 off 16. Fakhar Zaman kept the scoreboard moving with a handy 20 from 17 deliveries, including a towering six, before M Nabi trapped him in the deep to leave Pakistan at 63-3 in the eighth over. From there, it was



Salman Ali Agha who anchored the innings along with Mohammad Nawaz, who blazed away to 21 off just 11 balls. Mohammad Haris chipped in with 15 off 13, but it was the late flourish from Faheem Ashraf that gave Pakistan momentum in the final overs as he smashed 14 from just 5 balls, including a six and a four. For Afghanistan, left-arm pacer Fareed Ahmad was the pick of the bowlers despite conceding 47 runs in his four overs, finishing with 2-47. Mujeeb Ur

Rahman (1-22), Rashid Khan (1-26) and Mohammad Nabi (1-18) bowled tidy spells to keep Pakistan in check on an otherwise batting-friendly surface.

Scores in Brief

PAKISTAN 182-7 (Salman Ali Agha 53*, Sahibzada Farhan 21, M Nawaz 21; Fareed Ahmad 2-47) beat AFGHANISTAN 143 all out (Rashid Khan 39, Rahmanullah Gurbaz 38; Haris Rauf 4-31, Shaheen Afridi 2-21) by 39 runs.

Courtesy: The Nation

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