

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 diffrent developments complementing Pakistan's socio-cultural, economic & Political outcomes

### July in History

**1 July, 1948:** Quaid-e-Azam inaugurated the State Bank of Pakistan.

July 1948: First Balochistan conflict Princes Karim Khan and Muhammad Rahim started a rebellion against Pakistan led the Dosht-e Jhalawan and started unconventional attacks on the arm

**24 July, 1948:** Battle of Pandu ends in a Pakistani victory.

**27 July, 1949:** Pakistan and India sign the Karachi Agreement.

11 July, 1950: Pakistan joins the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

July, 1962: the National Assembly passes the Political Parties Act,[101] legalizing the formation of political parties.

22 July, 1964: The heads of state of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey issue a joint communique from Istanbul, establishing the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD).

**30 July, 1965:** Operation Desert Hawk ends in a Pakistani victory.

**15 July, 2001:** Agra Summit starts. President Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee holds talks over long-standing issues.

**14 July, 2005:** NWFP Assembly passes the Hasba bill with a majority vote.

**30 July, 2013:** Mamnoon Hussain is elected as the 12th President of Pakistan in 2013 Presidential elections.

13 July, 2023: Kurram Parachinar conflict ends with a ceasefire & Pakistani security forces take over the area.

### LHC gets first woman chief justice Aalia Neelum

Justice Aalia Neelum is set to make history as the first woman to rise to the position of chief justice of the Lahore High Court, after the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) unanimously approved her elevation, on Tuesday.

The JCP, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, approved her elevation after considering the nominations of three judges for the position of LHC chief justice, including Acting Chief Justice Shujaat Ali Khan and Justice Ali Baqar Najafi.

The JCP also unanimously recommended the elevation of Justice Shafi Siddiqui as chief justice of the Sindh High Court to fill the vacant seat created by the elevation of Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi to the Supreme Court.

The office of LHC chief justice became vacant after the elevation of Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan to the Supreme Court on June 7, following which Justice Shujaat Ali Khan was appointed as acting chief justice of the LHC.

Justice Aalia Neelum stands third in the seniority list of judges of the LHC. During the June 7 meeting, the JCP had decided to consider her nomination for the office of the LHC chief justice.

In a trailblazing milestone, Justice Syeda Tahira Safdar became the first woman to hold the position of chief justice of the Balochistan High Court in 2018, following the retirement of Justice Mohammad Noor Muskanzai. This was followed by another historic achievement when Justice Ayesha A. Malik became the first woman judge to be appointed to the Supreme Court in 2021.

A well-informed source told Dawn that the JCP had reached the consensus decision to elevate Justice Neelum despite Pakistan Bar Council's (PBC) opposition and advocacy for adhering to the principle of seniority. The source said the commission thoroughly evaluated credentials of all judges under consideration, and the feedback from nearly all member judges of the JCP was in favour of Justice Neelum.



When asked about the fate of the two senior judges who were bypassed for the position, the source said it's up to them to decide, but historically, the judges who have been superseded have opted to continue serving as judges.

The source pointed out that this scenario twice happened in the past, once in the Peshawar High Court and again in the Islamabad High Court.

Before the decision to elevate Justice Neelum, six PBC members had written a letter to CJP Isa on June 28, urging the SJC to uphold the seniority principle and emphasised its importance in maintaining the credibility and integrity of the judiciary system in the country.

"We hope that in the case of the appointment of chief justice in the LHC, seniority principle will be adhered to promote credibility of the judiciary system in the country," PBC members Shafqat Mehmood Chohan, Abid Shahib Zuberi, Chaudhry Ishtiaq Khan, Munir Ahmad Kakar, Shahab Sarki and Tahir Faraz Abbasi had stated.

Justice Neelum, born on November 12, 1966, earned her LLB degree from the University of Punjab in 1995 and was enrolled as an advocate in 1996. She was later enrolled as an advocate of the Supreme Court in 2008 and elevated to the Lahore High Court in 2013.

Courtesy: Dawn

### Waqar Younis set to get a major position in PCB: Sources

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi has decided to hand over the power to former captain Waqar Younis to make cricket decisions, according to the sources.

The sources revealed that Mohsin Naqvi would oversee the administrative affairs only, while Waqar Younis would be responsible for all the decisions regarding international and domestic selection committees, players' No Objection Certificates (NOCs) and other important cricket matters.

According to the PCB Consti-



tution 2014, the PCB chairman has the authority to delegate his power to someone, thereby

enabling the transfer of powers to Waqar Younis.Meanwhile, Mohsin Naqvi, himself, is currently focused on the administrative affairs of the upcoming ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025, which is scheduled to be hosted by Pakistan.

"Waqar Younis will be in charge of all matters related to the national team. He will oversee the national selection committee, white ball and red ball coaches," the sources claimed. Waqar has previously served as the head coach and bowling coach of Pakistan cricket team after retiring in 2003.

Courtesy: Dawn

### PM seeks more bilateral trade with Dushanbe

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif emphasised the need to expand bilateral trade between Pakistan and Tajikistan, saying that the current trade volume does not reflect the strong relationship between the two nations.

Separately, the premier has also formed a high-level committee to handle potential emergencies during the upcoming monsoon season.

PM Shehbaz is in Dushanbe for a two-day visit. Addressing a presser alongside President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikis-tan, he said the two countries have signed several memorandums of understanding (MoUs), which he hoped would strengthen bilateral ties.

The premier assured the Tajik president that he would work closely with him to further cement the brotherly ties not only in the fields of agriculture, education, health and promotion of investment, but also in expansion of bilateral trade.

### Rail-road project

He underlined how both countries needed to work closely and fix targets to increase bilateral trade and investment, citing transportation of goods from Karachi port to Tajikistan via Afghanistan and then from Dushanbe to Karachi port v ia Afghanistan through a rail-road project.

He said Pakistan would be keen to be a part of China-Tajikistan-Afghanistan trade corridor project, adding that it would be another opportunity to broaden the



multilateral trade in the region.

PM Shehbaz also expressed confidence that the CASA-1000 power project would be completed soon, bringing prosperity to this region.

The premier also referred to another MoU pertaining to relaxed visa requirements and said that it would be helpful for both countries in further achieving their goals.

The prime minister said the two countries had been the victims of terrorism; Pakistan faced this menace for years and paid a huge price in terms of human lives and economic losses to the tune of billions of dollars.

The prime minister also offered cooperation to Tajikistan in this regard and said the two countries could fight this menace collectively wherever it existed and in any shape.

Earlier, when the prime minister arrived at the Qasri-Millat, the Tajik president warmly welcomed him which followed the guard of honour by the contingents of Tajik armed forces.

President Rahmon emphasised brotherly relations between Pakistan and Tajikistan. The two leaders discussed the ways to strengthen cooperation in different fields between the two countries.

PM Shehbaz invited Tajikistan's investment in different sectors of Pakistan, improving regional connectivity and linkages between the people of the two countries.

Monsoon contingencies A day after the the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) activated its emergency centre in anticipation of rain in northern areas and Punjab, the prime minister decided to personally supervise the response to any flood situations during the monsoon.

Chairing a review meeting to address the monsoon forecast and potential emergencies, PM Shehbaz emphasised integrating advanced monsoon information into national broadcasts, stressing the regular dissemination of weather updates to farmers.

The premier instructed all

relevant institutions to remain on high alert during the monsoon and directed the NDMA to support all provincia governments.

He stressed that farmers and residents located near rivers and canals should be updated daily through the media and other information sources.

During the meeting, the NDMA provided a detailed briefing on the monsoon forecast and the areas at risk.

The forum's members were informed that heavy monsoon rains were expected in the four provinces during the first and second weeks of July.

They were also informed that this year's monsoon rains would move from the southeast to the north with rainfall expected in the Potohar region and the eastern part of Punjab during the first week of July.

The participants were informed that in the second week of July, there was a possibility of heavy rains in Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Gujranwala, Lahore and Faisalabad, with scattered rainfall anticipated Bahawalpur, Multan. Sahiwal and Dera Ghazi Khan divisions.

According to the NDMA briefing, a flood situation was expected in the Sutlej, Chenab, and Ravi rivers during the first two weeks of August with preparations for relocation and emergency responses completed in the areas surrounding these rivers.

Courtesy: Dawn

### Bilawal calls for national consensus on terrorism

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has linked economic prosperity with improved security as he called for consensus on national security and terrorism.

While addressing a press conference in Peshawar, the PPP leader also said Pakistan should take up its concerns over terrorism with Afghanistan as it was in the interest of the people of both countries.

"Mistakes have been made in the past; that cannot be denied. Our security situation is directly linked to the economic plight," said Mr Bhutto-Zardari, who arrived in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's capital earlier in the day.

He said that every decision made by the government cannot be criticised "just for the sake of it".

According to the PPP leader, political parties could have their differences, and there was "wide open space for them to do their politics".

"But we should not do politics on the issues of national security and terrorism and be on the same page."

He emphasised the need for everyone to "stand with the institutions" after whatever is decided in the upcoming multiparty conference proposed by the federal government.

The PPP Chairman reiterated that a delegation of his party will attend the meeting, aimed at building consensus on the counteroffensive, Operation Azm-i-Istehkam.

"PPP will then share its input on the appropriate forums," he said, adding that his party's aim will be to evolve the consensus as it hoped for on the budget and economic policy.

"The PPP stands with its people, police, army, and law enforcement agencies who have rendered sacrifices in all four provinces. We have to put our house in order when it comes to the economic and security situation, and the PPP will play a positive role in this process," he said.

### Benefits of engagement with Kabul

Responding to a question regarding the cross-border terrorism from Afghanistan, he said Kabul neither has a standing army nor counter-terrorism experience.

"There are capacity issues. However, our concerns are also serious, and it should be seen if they are addressed."

He added that if the two neigh-



bours manage to resolve their issues, it will mark an era of economic prosperity for them.

Answering another question, Mr Bhutto-Zardari claimed no party other than the PPP had demanded accountability over the spread of terrorism.

"When General Faiz [Hamid] and General [Qamar Javed] Bajwa were on their posts, it was PPP's demand that they be brought to the National Assembly [for a briefing], and PPP was the party that raised questions in that meeting," he said.

Now, the PPP is awaiting the multiparty conference where factual information will be presented, he said, adding the moot would be an appropriate forum to raise concerns.

Regarding the law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the PPP leader said it was "the worst in the country" and that the provincial government had a primary role in improving it.

He continued that Pakistan currently faces many issues that the government could no longer deny.

"We were told by governments in the past that all is well. There were [decisions made] in the past ... to provide relief to and invite hardened criminals, including those responsible for the Army Public School attack, which led to a mindset of denial," he said while referring to the civil-military policy to resettle families of TTP militants in the ex-Fata area when PTI was in power.

The PPP has always engaged in positive and issue-based politics and will continue to do so in future.

"There is a dearth of positive politics in the country, and the politics of hatred and division has reached its peak," he said, adding that politicians have to combat such "anti-democratic tendencies" democratically.

Courtesy: Dawn

## PM wants elements spreading uncertainty exposed

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday emphasised the need for exposing elements spreading uncertainty and instability in the country.

He made these remarks during a meeting with parliamentary leader of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz in the Senate and Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Senator Irfan Siddiqui.

PM Shehbaz stated that the

government, as well as the PML-N, should evolve an effective strategy to foil the organised campaign against the government, state and national security institutions.

Appreciating the positive role of PML-N in the Senate, the prime minister said that the upper house of parliament should guide all the elected houses for democratic values and dignified environment.

While congratulating Senator



Siddiqui on being elected as chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, the prime minister expressed the hope that the Foreign Affairs Committee under his leadership would pay special attention to promoting a positive, peaceful and constructive image of Pakistan to the outside world.

Courtesy: Dawn

# Sethi House in Peshawar; an architectural marvel turns tourists destination

Laiba Farooq, a sixth-grade student passionate about architecture and archaeology, was excited on Monday after visiting the Sethi House, a historic jewel renowned for its awe-inspiring woodwork and exquisite architectural design. Accompanied by her parents, Laiba Farooq along with her sister Aleena Farooq, a residents of Nowshera were over the moon after exploring architectural wonder located in Mohalla Sethiyan near Ghanta Ghar, amid overcast skies with chances of rain at Peshawar. Built in 1886 by Sethi Karim Bakhash, Sethi House left her in an enormous excitement with its awesome wooden gate, grand courtyard, and captivating water fountain grabbing the visitors attention. Construction work was started in 1835 during the colonial era and the house was finally completed in nearly 49 years. Standing as testament of amalgamation of Muslim and vernacular Uzbekistani architecture, the house unique features such as basement, central courtyard, and an upper floor has magnified the Sethi family's flair for awesome architecture design and love for woodwork. The significance of the house's architectural jewel was rightly elaborated by the renowned archaeologist Prof Ahmad Hassan Dani who had mentioned houses in the Sethi neighbourhood in his book 'Peshawar -Historic City of the Frontier'. Professor Dani wrote that through a galaxy of pre-Islamic, Mughal, Sikh and even British, much of Peshawar's rich and varied cultural history can be traced. Known for their international trade and innovative architectural contributions, Sethi family had faced economic and financial difficulties in the early 20th century due to the Bolshevik Revolution, which negatively impacted businesses. They eventually sold their properties in-



cluding Sethi House to revive their fortunes, Bakhtzada Khan, Assistant Director of the Archeology and Museum Department said and noted that the beauty of the mehrabs (prayer place) adorned with glass shelves that mimic stars and the exquisite ceiling design were the most frequented visit sites. Tourist Umar Khayam Khan from Nowshera praised the building's historical significance and its potential for attracting global visitors and was highly impressed by its eyecatching glasswork and floral designs, which were brought from Belgium, adding its charm. He said Sethi House was the identity of Peshawar and urged visitors to ensure that plastic bags and other raw materials should not be thrown away after visiting it. Shahryar Khan, Chief Architect at the Communication and Works Department, described Sethi House as a model of green architecture of 20th century due to its effective ventilation and durability.

Nawaz announces two-month relief for Punjab power consumers using upto 500 units Acquired by the KP Government in 2006 and converted into a museum in 2010, Sethi House now attracts architecture enthusiasts. Sethi House museum houses a collection of artifacts and antiquities from the region.

The collection includes paintings, sculptures, carpets, and textiles, Mughal paintings,

Pashto paintings, and a few European paintings. The sculpture collection includes Buddhist sculptures, Gandhara sculptures, and a few Hindu sculptures. He said the carpet collection includes tribal carpets, Mughal carpets, and a few Persian carpets besides shawls, dresses, and rugs.

The museum also has a library and a research centre. The library has a collection of books on the history and culture of the region. The research centre is used by scholars to study the artifacts in the museum. Its preservation was part of the Cultural Heritage Trail Project (CHTP), which renovated a 500-meter trail from Ghanta Ghar to Gor Gathri, restoring the grandeur of Peshawar's historic sites.

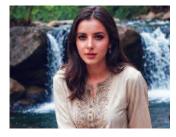
The CHTP has revitalized around 85 heritage buildings, reflecting Peshawar's rich history from the Mughal, British, and Sikh eras. The archeology guru said Sethi house museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m and the entrance fee is Rs. 100 for adults and Rs. 50 for children.

The experts said that Sethi House museum is an attractive designation of Peshawar to learn about the history, art and culture of the region and international tourists could be attracted in droves by properly showcasing it through social media platforms on a regular basis.

### Meet Pakistan's first AI influencer Shabnam Xai

Pakistan's digital scene has been invigorated with the arrival of Shabnam Xai, the nation's first ultra-realistic AI influencer.

Since her Instagram debut on July 16, 2024, Xai has captivated audiences with her remarkably lifelike photos and vibrant online presence.



Xai, a creation of advanced artificial intelligence, presents a blend of glamour and technology.

Her Instagram account features an array of visually striking posts, establishing her as a model, food enthusiast, and fitness guru. Each post is set against enchanting backdrops, highlighting her unique appeal.



The AI influencer hails from Islamabad and is concurrently pursuing a Master of Public Administration at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS).

Her dual role as a digital icon and an academic adds depth to her virtual persona, bridging the gap between technology and real-world interests.

### 'Law enforcement dialogue' with US to be held in October

Pakistan and the United States have agreed to hold a joint "Law Enforcement Dialogue" in October this year.

The understanding was reached during a meeting between Donald Blome, the US Ambassador in Islamabad, and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi. The two sides discussed matters of mutual interest and strengthening of bilateral relations.

The meeting focused on measures to bolster bilateral cooperation in combating terrorism and narcotics trafficking, and on ways to strengthen security. Mr Naqvi emphasised the significance of US support for strengthening Pakistan's law enforcement agencies. He highlighted the recent discussions in New York to promote collaboration between the police forces of Islamabad and New York City.

Naqvi, Blome discuss meas-



ures to bolster cooperation in combating terrorism, narcotics trafficking

A delegation from Islamabad police will visit New York soon to explore opportunities for cooperation, including holding of training programmes.

The interior minister reiterated the government's commitment to protecting all minorities and emphasised that the Constitution protected their fundamental rights. He recalled that all those suspected of involvement in the recent Jaranwala tragedy had been arrested and produced before a court.

The meeting touched upon the successful hosting of the T20 World Cup in the US, showcasing the country's emergence as a hub for international cricket. The interior minister informed the ambassador that he was trying to organise a tri-nation series between Pakistan, the US and Canada, as well as a cricket league between the US and Canada.

Amb Blome said it was "highly satisfying for us" to organise the World Cup.

In May, the US State Department's Coordinator for counter-terrorism, Elizabeth Richard, and Pakistan's Additional Foreign Secretary for the UN Syed Haider Shah cochaired the US-Pakistan Counterterrorism Dialogue.

"The United States and Pakistan recognise that a partnership to counter ISIS-Khorasan, the TTP, and other terrorist organisations will advance security in the region and serve as a model of bilateral and regional cooperation to address transnational terrorism threats.

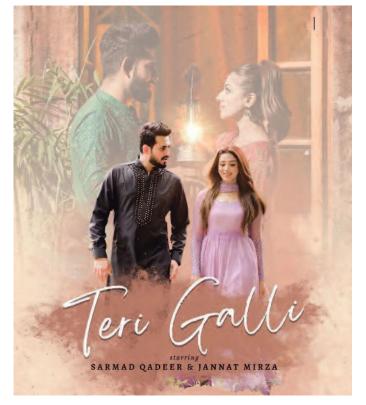
"Both governments resolved to increase communication on these topics and continue collaboration to detect and deter violent extremism through whole-of-government approaches," a joint statement said.

\*\*Courtesy: Dawn\*\*

# Warner Music South Asia unveils Sarmad Qadeer's captivating solo, 'Teri Galli'

Warner Music South Asia, in partnership with Giraffe, Pakistan's leading music and audio production company, is thrilled to announce the release of 'Teri Galli', the solo track by the talented Sarmad Qadeer. The song, a soulful Punjabi pop ballad, showcases Sarmad's exceptional vocal prowess and songwriting ability. The accompanying music video, directed by Adnan Aslam and Wagar Azeem Khan, features social media icon Jannat Mirza. Produced by Supernova Muzic, 'Teri Galli' is a poetic masterpiece that delves deep into the world of love and longing. Sarmad's heartfelt vocals, coupled with Tarz's evocative lyrics, create a captivating sound scape that resonates with listeners on a profound level. The song's narrative unfolds a tale of unyielding devotion and the intoxicating allure of a beloved.

'Teri Galli is a piece of my soul. I hope the listeners connect with the depth of longing and love expressed in the song. Collaborating with Giraffe and Warner Music South Asia has been an incredible experience. Their support and belief in my music have been instrumental in bringing this song to life,' said Sarmad Qadeer. Sarmad Qadeer is a rising star in the Pakistani music industry, known for his versatile talent as a singer, songwriter, and composer. With a string of successful collaborations and a dedicated fanbase, Sarmad has established himself as a prominent figure in the music scene. His journey to stardom began at the tender age of 16, and since



then, he has consistently delivered chart-topping hits. 'Teri Galli is so beautiful and the story it tells is captivating. Working with Sarmad on this

project was amazing. His talent is undeniable and his passion for music is infectious,' said Jannat Mirza.

Courtesy: 24newshd.tv

### Pakistan, Azerbaijan to expand investment up to \$2bn

Pakistan and Azerbaijan agreed to enhance the bilateral investment level up to \$2 billion in areas of mutual beneficial projects.

In a joint press stakeout along with Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev after witnessing the signing of agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) in diverse areas between the two countries, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said: "We have discussed an initial figure of \$2bn of investment in areas of mutual beneficial projects."

The prime minister hoped that when he visited Azerbaijan in November this year, the two sides would be ready to ink agreements worth \$2bn to begin with as there was great potential on both sides to multiply this figure in years to come.

"In today's in-depth conversation, we have agreed to enhance our bilateral trade, besides discussing areas of joint cooperation and joint investments," he added.

He said: "The bilateral investment volume of less than \$100 million does not reflect the strength of our brotherhood and friendship in the field of joint investment in areas which are mutually beneficial."

Expressing satisfaction over the bilateral meeting, the prime minister said discussions were held on mutual trust and confidence where both sides expressed their unwavering commitment to move forward and touch higher levels of achievements in the fields of trade and investment.

He emphasised that Pakistan had always supported Azerbaijan's stand, while the brotherly country had always supported the cause of millions of Kashmiris.



PM Shehbaz hoped that the climate summit COP29 to be hosted by Azerbaijan in Baku would be a significant international event for all developing countries, including Pakistan.

"We are confident that under your wise stewardship, COP29 will deliver on the climate change-related issues of developing countries like Pakistan."

He said the government was impressed by the beautification of Baku therefore it decided to copy its model.

President Aliyev said the brotherhood between the two countries was based on deep feelings between the people of the two sides.

"This connection is a big asset, we are brothers, we are friends, and we support each other on every international issue."

He added: "Our state forward support on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir is our commitment to our brotherhood and also our respect to international law, the rights of Kashmiris are ignored and violated for decades."

He said the UN Security Council resolutions indicated how the issue must be resolved but rued that unfortunately, UNSC resolutions had no mechanism of implementation.

"But we as brothers and friends will always stand side by side with you,

with our brothers in Kashmir, with international law, with justice and I am sure justice will prevail," he added.

our as he arrived at the PM House to meet the premier, along with his high-powered delegation.

The national anthems of both countries were played as the Azeri president stood at the salute dais along with the prime minister.

Contingents of the armed forces presented a guard of honor to the president.

The Azeri foreign minister had



He said the two sides were analysing the projects for the initial investment of \$2bn.

"During our today's conversation, we reviewed several projects in the areas of energy, connectivity, infrastructure and defence industry," he said, adding that "we will build strong partnership not only on the political level that we already had but on economic and trade investment levels as well."

President Aliyev landed in Islamabad earlier in the day on a two-day official visit at the invitation of PM Shehbaz. He was received by PM Shehbaz along with his cabinet members, including Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Information Minister Attaullah Tarar.

He was given a guard of hon-

visited Pakistan in May and held delegation-level talks in which Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said both sides were taking measures to increase bilateral investment, especially in the energy sector.

Mr Dar also the deputy prime minister had expressed Pakistan's full support to Azerbaijan during its presidency of climate summit COP29.

At a joint press conference the same day, the foreign ministers of both countries had expressed a strong commitment to further strengthen bilateral strategic relations.

Meanwhile, in a meeting with FM Bayramov, PM Shehbaz had stressed the need to further strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in various sectors.

# Mehmood ul Hassan leads 'Spero' exhibition to support maternal and child healthcare

The TrueWorth Foundation, in collaboration with MoodsAtelier and the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA), proudly presents "Spero"—an exhibition and fundraiser for the Al Wadood Hospital, dedicated to child and mother care.

Organized by Mehmood ul Hassan and Zahra Wadood Fatmi, and curated by Aasim Akhtar and Mehmood ul Hassan, this event features an impressive lineup of artists: Faheem Abbas, Hamza bin Faisal, Ramsha Haider, Tahira Noreen, Kaiser Irfan, Jibran Shahid, Nagsh Raj, Unab Sumbal, Mehmood ul Hassan, Irfan Abdullah, Tahir Saleem, and Mahad Saddique.

The exhibition was inaugurated by the British High Commissioner and attended by other dignitaries, including the Turkish Ambassador. The opening event at PNCA saw a large turnout of artists, diplomats, designers, architects, and enthusiasts from various fields. The artwork received high praise for its creativity and depth.

The exhibition is open daily from 10 AM to 5 PM and will run until Friday, July 26th. The organizer of the event, Mehmood ul Hassan, invites everyone to experience the artistic expressions of hope and contribute to a noble cause. He further stated, "This



exhibition not only showcases the immense talent of our artists but also highlights the power of art in bringing communities together for a common cause. The funds raised will significantly impact the Al Wadood Hospital, improving healthcare services for mothers and children in need."

The impact of "Spero" extends

beyond the exhibition itself. It serves as a platform for raising awareness about critical healthcare issues and fosters a spirit of giving and solidarity within the community. The collaboration between artists, architects, and philanthropists exemplifies the potential for art to drive social change and support humanitarian efforts.

Courtesy: The Nation

# Pakistan record comprehensive win over UAE in Women's Asia Cup

Pakistan's Gull Feroza struck her second consecutive half-century to propel her team to a commanding ten-wicket victory over the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the Women's Asia Cup T20 2024 match at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium, Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

With this win, Pakistan Women have taken a significant step forward towards improving their chance of securing a semi-final berth.

Choosing to field first, Pakistan's bowlers swiftly dismantled the UAE batting lineup, limiting them to a modest 103-8 in their 20 overs. Pakistan's chase was smooth and swift, as they raced to 107 without losing a wicket in just 14.1 overs, surpassing the target with 35 balls to spare.

The match showcased a stellar performance by Pakistan openers Gull Feroza and Muneeba Ali, who continued their impressive form from the previous game against Nepal. The duo shared an unbeaten 107-run partnership, marking their second century stand together; they had previously scored 105 runs in the last match.

Feroza's blistering knock of 62 not out, achieved in just 46 balls and including eight boundaries, was a highlight of the innings and she was



awarded the Player of the Match. Muneeba Ali contributed with a solid 37 not out off 30 balls, featuring four boundaries.

In contrast, the UAE Women's batting struggled against the disciplined Pakistan bowlers. Theertha Satish was the top scorer with 40 runs, while Esha Oza added 16. Khushi Sharma

managed only 12 runs as the UAE innings faltered under pressure.

Pakistan's bowlers, led by Sadia Iqbal, Nashra Sundhu, and Tuba Hassan, each claimed two wickets. Iqbal took 2-11, Sundhu 2-22, and Hassan 2-17.

Courtesy: The Express Tribune

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Greenwich University, DK-10, 38th, Street,
Darakshan, Phase VI, Defence Housing Authority,
Karachi-75500, Pakistan
UAN: (021) 111-202-303; Tel: (021) 35840397-98

Email:gu@greenwich.edu.pk; URL: www.greenwich.edu.pk