

Positive Post



Greenwich University
Pakistan - Mauritius

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June in History

June 3, 1947: British Government decides to bifurcate British India, into two sovereign states – India and Pakistan

June 25, 1958: President Rule is proclaimed in East Pakistan.

June 14, 1961: Government takes over news agency, Associated Press of Pakistan (APP).

June 1, 1962: Soviet Union awards Lenin Prize to Faiz Ahmed Faiz for his literary contribution.

June 7, 1962: SUPARCO launches Pakistan's first weather rocket, Rehbar - I from Sonmiani.

June 8, 1962: National Assembly elected and begins its first session. Ayub Khan takes oath of first President of Pakistan under new constitution.

June 30, 1965: Pakistan and India sign accord on Rann of Kutch.

June 11, 1978: Altaf Hussain forms All Pakistan Mubajir Students Organization (APMSO).

June 21, 1980: Government starts collecting Zakat.

June 6, 1986: President Zia lays foundation stone of Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital in Rawalpindi.

June 15, 1988: President General Zia promulgates Shariat Ordinance making Sharia supreme law of the land.

June 18, 2017: Pakistan wins 2017 ICC Champions Trophy defeating India in the finals.

Pakistan's standing in the global rankings

Overview

Pakistan observed a slight improvement in the overall international rankings in 2018 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 ranked 112th out of 167 countries in the Democracy Index scoring 4.17 out of 10 in 2018 compared to 4.26 in 2017.

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 150th out of 189 countries in the Human Development Index scoring 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 ranked 139th out of 180 countries in the Press Freedom Index scoring 43.24 out of 100 in 2018 compared to 43.55 in 2017.

Index from 0 (most press freedom) to 100 (least press freedom)

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

TERRORISM INDEX

Pakistan ranked 5th out of 163 countries in the Terrorism Index scoring 8.18 out of 10 in 2018 compared to 8.40 in 2017.

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

Pakistan ranked 131st out of 180 countries in the Economic Freedom Index scoring 54.4 out of 100 in 2018 compared to 52.8 out of 100 in 2017.

Index from 0 (repressed) to 100 (free)

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 and Political outcomes.

KRC delegate Mr. Ali Jillani represented Asia & Pacific at the Expert Group Meeting (EGM)



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



KRC delegate Mr. Ali Jillani represented Asia & Pacific at the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021 on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (APRCM). Some of the excerpts from his interventions during EGM session 1 is as below:

Session 1

Excellencies,

COVID 19 has had a devastating effect on Asia Pacific as the reports indicate that the pandemic will push over 78 million people under the poverty line (in South Asia alone) and the total number of working

poor in Asia Pacific is estimated to reach over 94 million people, disproportionately affecting women and marginalized groups. Almost 40 out of 43 countries are experiencing unprecedented increase in debt to GDP ratio in the Asia & Pacific. APRCEM demands the redress of systemic barriers and structural impediments to sustainable development. We advocate development justice that seeks to address unjust economic, trade and tax policies; corporate capture of land, resources and governance; patriarchy and fundamentalisms; militarism, conflicts and authoritarianism. Moreover, we demand:

- The Strategic policy emphasis, recognizing gender as a cross-cutting constituency, should address the root causes of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition as well as uphold labor and environmental standards.
 - Comprehensive policy reforms should be enacted involving (Goal 1) transformative reforms in social protection to ensure equitable access for the most marginalized; prioritized access to essential services through a rights-based approach including healthcare and COVID 19 recovery and response measures; and, an effective redress of IMF conditionalities restricting public spending across key strategic sectors like health, education and social protection.
 - (Goal 2) requires uncompromised focus on food and seed sovereignty agroecological approaches, dismantling of corporate control over agriculture and the food system, enhanced security of land tenure and food security for all, curbing inequitable distribution of land, enacting genuine agrarian reforms, ban on conversion of agricultural land for other purposes, prohibition on hazardous pesticides, and protection of small farmers.
 - (Goal 8) requires a labor protection floor that guarantees fundamental workers' rights, a living wage, adequate working time and working conditions, as well as right to collective bargaining, and concrete policy action for formalizing the informal economy employing over 68% of Asia-Pacific's workforce.
 - Corporate control and capture of resources and governance is detrimental to the achievement of ambitions across goals 1, 2 and 8. The business-as-usual trend must not be allowed to enable private sector monopolization across sustainable development processes through public-private partnerships, financing mechanisms and investment protection policies that enable corporations to control water, transportation, and energy -turning these public services into sources of profit. Corporate lobbies should not be allowed to dictate the terms around labor and environmental standards at the expense of people and the planet as it paves way for tax evasions, asset stealth, profit shifting and illicit financial flows.
 - Trade liberalization and deregulation policies must be confronted to avoid their consequential impact exacerbating poverty and hunger and perpetuating destructive economic growth responsible for widening inequalities.
- I thank you, Chair.

PM Imran Asks Bill Gates To Set Up Microsoft Incubation Lab In Pakistan

The opening of Microsoft incubation lab will not only help the independent software vendors but also take the IT industry of Pakistan to a new height.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has invited the world's leading tech giant, Microsoft, to establish its incubation lab in Pakistan.

The premier, who has been making efforts to attract foreign investors since assuming the office, held a telephonic conversation with Microsoft founder Bill Gates, who is also Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), on Wednesday night.

While alluding to Pakistan's potential in the Information Technology (IT) sector and the Government's



business-friendly IT policy, the Prime Minister encouraged Microsoft to further expand its footprint in Pakistan.

The opening of Microsoft's incubation centers will not only help the independent software vendors but also take the IT industry of Pakistan to a new height.

Polio Eradication

Views were also exchanged on the ongoing polio eradication campaign in the country as well as on Pakistan's response to the public health challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The premier appreciated the work of BMGF for the socio-economic uplift of the most disadvantaged people around the globe, especially for promoting universal access to health services and combating of infectious diseases.

He expressed gratitude, in particular, for BMGF's partnership with

Pakistan to rid the country of polio. The Prime Minister reaffirmed that polio eradication remained a key national priority for the Government and earnest efforts were continuing to further intensify the anti-polio campaign across the country despite the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 crisis, in order to achieve a polio-free Pakistan.

Recalling that a special polio eradication campaign was launched in the country earlier this month (7-11 June 2021), during which vaccine drops were administered to over 33 million children under five years of age, the Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction over the substantive progress in cutting the transmission of the poliovirus in the country.

He hoped that Polio will be eradicated soon with the support of all partners. Mr. Bill Gates expressed his appreciation for the Prime Minister's leadership for this national cause. Mr. Gates added that while progress is encouraging, keeping up pressure will be the key to ending transmission for good.

The Prime Minister also highlighted Pakistan's efforts to overcome the third wave of corona virus in the country.

The telephone call follows the high-level GPEI (Global Polio Eradication Initiative) Polio Oversight Board (POB) delegation visit to Pakistan in early June, when Prime Minister Imran Khan met with POB leadership and had convened the National Task Force on Polio Eradication. The new GPEI Polio Eradication Strategy was launched on 10 June 2021 in a global (virtual) event featuring high-level participation from Pakistan.

Courtesy: Pakistan observer

Imran Khan: Pakistan won't sabotage its relations with China



Pakistan won't spoil its relations with China under any Western pressure, Prime Minister Imran Khan asserted.

"America pressurising Pakistan to cut ties with China is very unfair," he said in an interview with the Chinese news channel China Global Television Network.

"China has stood by Pakistan in difficult times and we have a huge respect and love for the country."

The premier pointed out that China always "stood with us" whenever Pakistan was in trouble politically, internationally, or was facing conflict from neighbouring countries.

"Our relations with China are strengthening with every passing day and we won't do anything to

sabotage this," he said, adding that the countries always stand together on international forums.

The PM asked: "Why do we have to take sides? We should have good relations with everyone."

You see the United States is wary of China. It has formed a regional alliance called the Quad, which includes US and India, and a couple of other countries, which has complicated things in the region, he said.

Talking about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, PM Khan remarked that it was the "biggest thing happening in Pakistan".

"Whatever happens in any international forum, Pakistan and China stand together."

Courtesy: Samaa

Turkey reduces quarantine period for Pakistani travellers



Turkey has reduced the quarantine period to 10 days for travellers from Pakistan, the Turkish government told the Embassy of Pakistan.

Earlier, travellers from the country had to stay in quarantine for 14 days.

Turkish authorities have said that the quarantine period has also been reduced to 10 days for passengers arriving from Afghanistan.

The policy will take effect July 1.

People travelling to Turkey from Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Nepal, South Africa, and Sri Lanka will continue to observe the mandatory 14-day quarantine period.

Passengers, who travel from other places, but have been in the above-mentioned countries within the last 14 days have to show a negative COVID-19 PCR test.

It must not be older than 72 hours.

Courtesy: Samaa

Cheap electricity helps contain price hike: PM

Prime Minister Imran Khan stressed the need for building more water reservoirs in the country in order to meet the impending challenges of water shortage and to produce cheap electricity to help sustain economic growth and boost agriculture production.

Talking to workers and engineers during a visit to the construction site of the Dasu Hydropower Project (HPP), Imran said expensive electricity led to price-hike and inflation while inexpensive power brought prices of items of daily use to a low level.

“The construction of hydropower projects is imperative for sustainable economic growth and agriculture production besides bringing prices of daily commodities and inflation down,” the prime minister said.

“Expensive electricity leads to price-hike and inflation while inex-

pensive electricity generation from dams bring prices of daily use commodities to a low level, thus making a positive impact on socioeconomic lives of poor strata,” he added.

The prime minister mentioned that Pakistan had been blessed with a number of water reservoir sites suitable for construction of hydropower projects. “If constructed [dams] will directly benefit common man besides bolstering economic growth, industrial and agriculture production.”

Earlier, the prime minister inspected different sections of under-construction Dasu HPP and reviewed pace of work. He expressed satisfaction with the pace of work on the project and lauded the efforts of the local and foreign engineers and labourers.

The Dasu HPP is being built in two stages by the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda), as part of the government’s “Vision



2025 Programme”. The government has finalised the land purchase for the dam while the construction work was continuing despite the coronavirus situation.

Dasu project comprises 4,320 megawatt hydropower plant on the Indus river near Dasu town in Upper Kohistan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The project is located approximately 74 kilometres downstream Diامر Basha dam, 240kms upstream Tarbela Dam, and 345km from Islamabad.

The construction will be completed

in two phases. At present, the work on Phase-I had been accelerated to complete it by April 2025 with the generation capacity of 2,160MW. Similarly, 4,320MW electricity would be produced after completion of the Phase-II by 2029.

Some 80% of the project cost of the first phase will be borne by Wapda and remaining 20% will be provided by the World Bank. He said the project will inject Rs12 billion unit cheap and environment-friendly power into the national grid, besides creating 8,000 jobs.

Courtesy: Express Tribune

Pakistan to resume indoor dining, timings for markets extended: NCOC Single-day covid-19 deaths lowest in four months



The NCOC has decided to resume indoor dining across Pakistan from July 1.

In a meeting on Monday, the National Command and Operation Centre eased coronavirus restrictions in the country.

From July 1, people who have been completely inoculated against the virus will be allowed inside restaurants. They will have to carry their vaccination certificates at all times and will only be let inside after showing them.

Restaurants and cafes have been instructed to operate at 50% of their capacity.

Markets will be allowed to stay

open till 10pm. Previously, shops, malls, and businesses were operating from 8am to 8pm.

The new decisions will remain in force till July 31. The NCOC will meet again on July 27 and overview the graph of infections in the country.

The government reiterated that no student will be passed without exams this year. Assessments for intermediate and matriculation will begin on July 10. Educational institutions across the country have reopened as well.

Pakistan reported 20 deaths from the deadly virus the lowest in four months. The country’s infection rate was reported at 2.5%.

Courtesy: Samaa

Pakistan increases direct flights from UK, Canada, China, Malaysia, Europe

Pakistan has decided to increase the number of direct flights from the UK, Europe, Canada, China and Malaysia after a decline in number of the COVID-19 infections, according to the National Command and Operation Center. The flights coming from the UK, China, Malaysia, Europe and

lives in Pakistan, while the number of total confirmed cases stands at 954,743.

Federal Minister Asad Umar, who is also the head of Pakistan’s COVID-control authority, warned Friday that the country could be hit by the fourth wave of the virus if the people stop being cautious.



Canada will be increased by 40%. The arriving passengers will, however, have to undergo a mandatory COVID test before departing for Pakistan.

The new air travel plan will come into effect from July 1.

The country reported 23 deaths and 901 new cases in the past 24 hours. The virus has so far claimed 22,211

“In the absence of strong SOP enforcement and continued strong vaccination programme, the fourth wave could emerge in Pakistan in July,” said Umar in a Twitter post after reviewing the “artificial intelligence based disease modeling analysis today in NCOC.

He advised people to follow the SOPs and get vaccinated.

Courtesy: Samaa

Govt is taking bold steps for the protection of climate: PM

Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that clean and green Pakistan is his vision and the government is taking bold steps for climate protection to secure the future of coming generations.

Addressing the Tiger Force volunteers during his visit to Naran on Monday, the prime minister said that promotion of tourism is a challenge for the government and huge amounts are being spent on environmental projects in the country.

He said that the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme will change the environment. He said that improved tourism will generate jobs and will ensure prosperity in the country. He said that illegal forest cutting will not be tolerated as Kaghan valley has much attractiveness, which is not available anywhere in the world.

Earlier, the prime minister inaugurated various measures to make the Naran Valley a tourist spot of international standard as well as to protect environment and wildlife and to provide best facilities to the tourists.



He, during his visit to the Naran Valley, also inaugurated the 'River Bank Protection and Habitat Restoration Programme' under which a large number of cedar and pine trees were planted during this year's afforestation campaign in light of Prime Minister's Clean and Green Pakistan Vision.

This programme will help protect riverbanks, prevent accumulation of silt in dams and enhance Naran's beauty as well as improving the environment.

The prime minister, on the occasion, also distributed motorbikes among

Community River Rangers to ensure surveillance of River Kunhar, its lakes and tributaries to check illegal fishing. Besides, a two-year ban has been imposed on all kinds of fishing in River Kunhar, Saif-ul-Malook and Dudipatsar lakes to raise trout and other fish varieties.

In the second phase, 'Naran Destination Trout Trophy Fishing' will be started under 'Catch and Release' strategy to keep hunting of Trout and other wildlife within the established limit. Additionally, 30,000 brown Trout fish will be released in River Kunhar to increase the population of this species.

The prime minister also started an Emergency Response Service to extend necessary help to tourists in case of emergency. He handed over machinery to the local administration to ensure cleanliness at tourist spots, which will play an important role to conserve natural beauty of Naran. He also distributed biodegradable bags among local people to discourage use of plastic bags at tourist spots.

Separately, members of the National Assembly including Rahat Amanullah Bhatti, Malik Karamat Ali, and Sardar Talib Hussain Nakai called on Prime Minister Imran Khan in Islamabad on Monday. During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

Later, women MNAs including Seemi Bukhari, Sobia Kamal Khan, Rubina Jameel, Fauzia Behram, Rukhsana Naveed, Tashfain Sardar, Wajiha Akram, Saima Naveed, and Dr Zill-e-Huma also called on the prime minister.

Courtesy: The Financial daily

Pakistan ready to act as a bridge between regions: COAS

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday said that Pakistan stand for peace within and all around and is ready to act as a bridge between the regions.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the COAS visited National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad.

Addressing the participants of National Security and War Course (NSWC) – 21, Gen Bajwa dilated upon the evolving strategic and regional environment.

"Pakistan stands for peace within and all around, as it looks forward to acting as a bridge between regions," he said.

Expounding on Pakistan's support to Afghan Peace Process, the Army Chief said that spoilers of peace in Afghanistan risk regional



instability.

Expressing resolute support to the people of IIOJ&K, COAS stressed upon a peaceful and durable solution of Kashmir issue in line with relevant UN resolutions and aspirations of Kashmiri people.

Sharing his vision of Pakistan Army, the COAS underscored the need for continuous evaluation of

existing doctrine and corresponding strategy to effectively deal with the evolving threats in various domains.

He termed professionalism, competence and devotion to duty as hall mark of Pakistan Army and emphasised on realistic and futuristic training for maintaining perpetual operational readiness.

"Force modernization and induc-

tion of advanced technologies are imperative for maintaining qualitative edge over adversary," COAS remarked.

"A well-equipped, well trained and motivated Army having unwavering support of its people can surmount any challenge," Gen Bajwa emphasised adding that the forces that wish to undermine the unbreakable bond between Armed Forces and the nation are bound to fail.

Congratulating the participants on successful completion of their course, he advised them to stay focused on attaining professional excellence while remaining abreast with revolutionary advancements in warfare which are redefining national security.

Earlier on arrival, the Army Chief was received by Lieutenant General Muhammad Saeed; President NDU.

Courtesy:Dunya News

Public Private Sector connected with UNODC Pakistan on World Drug Day 2021!



Since March 2020 due to COVID-19, nations faced intermittent lockdown, work from home, youth was getting restless by staying indoors - these were the stressed times for ever one. We had to follow SOPs, stay at distance, wear mask, wash hands, not to visit places, family, friends the first wave the second wave and then the third wave challenged mental health of public, especially the younger lot, whose energies sees no boundaries. So, the youth all around us started indulging into different activities, where they can go out, yet adhering to social distancing, which brought out a culture of peddling all over the world.

Keeping this in context, UNODC Country Office Pakistan thought of promoting healthy activity like cycling and connected with public private sector to support a nationwide cycling event to commemorate the World Drug Day 2021 in coordination with its counterparts, Ministry of Narcotics Control and Anti Narcotics Force Government of Pakistan, and considered it safe since a large percentage of population is being vaccinated in Pakistan.

Cycling rallies were organized nationwide in many cities of Pakistan i.e Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. For visibility and advocacy, T-shirts, streamers, banners and play cards were printed with the messages on drug prevention and awareness and distributed in relevant cycling groups in related cities. A mega event took place in Islamabad and an invite was sent to public via social media. 70 cycles were rented out for those who were without the cycles and rest brought their own. Approximately 600 plus people from all walks of life which were UN Country Heads, interna-

tional and national counter parts, Civil Society, students, housewives, children and media joined the event which was considered a bench mark for the success of the event and many requested to do such events more often. There was also an arrangement of walk by Anti Narcotics Force for all those who didn't want to peddle. People wore shirts, caps and hanged play cards with drug messages in front of their cycles. UNODC Goodwill Ambassador Shehzad Roy was also invited to lead the rally and Faisal Qureshi, a TV celebrity (actor, director, writer) also grace the event. Team of female community police under the leadership of Ms Amna Baig ASP Police was also present to hold the fort and be in the lead.

Mr Ijaz Ahmed Shah, Federal Minister for Narcotics Control, is a Pakistani politician and a former officer of the Pakistan Army and Pakistan Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) officer was the Chief Guest, who graced the event and gave his remarks on the drug abuse and prevention and applauded UNODC its work in Pakistan. Representative UNODC Mr Jeremy Milsom also gave his remarks on the occasion.

Video messages on the drug awareness were recorded from variety of people and shared on social media. This event was supported by Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs USA, WHO Pakistan, Container Control Programme, Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries, Graana.com, Nestle Pakistan, AeroCycling, Islamabad Cycling Federation, Serena Hotel Islamabad and Quality Aviation Pakistan.

Courtesy: <https://www.unodc.org/>

Cinemas to reopen in Pakistan from July 1 Only vaccinated people to be allowed inside

Cinemas across Pakistan will reopen from July 1, the National Command and Operation decided in a meeting.

Only people who have been completely vaccinated against the novel coronavirus will be allowed inside movie theatres. "Cinemas are allowed to re-open with strict Covid protocols for vaccinated people till 1am."

Theatres have been instructed to get the staff immunised and submit their vaccination certificates to the provincial governments.

Other important decisions taken in the meeting are:

- Indoor dining to reopen on July 1 with 50% capacity
- Markets allowed to stay open till 10pm
- Shrines, gyms to reopen
- 400 vaccinated guests allowed in outdoor weddings
- 200 vaccinated guests allowed in indoor weddings
- Public transport to operate at 70% capacity



- Ban on religious processions and gathering will remain imposed

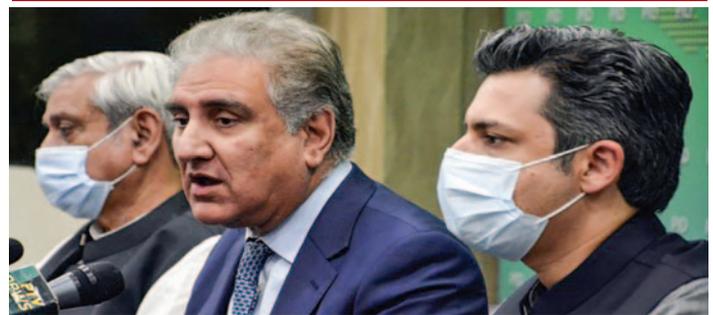
Shops of essential items, petrol pumps, and pharmacies have been allowed to stay open round the clock.

The new instructions will remain in force till July 31 after which the forum will meet again to discuss the graph of infections in the country. The NCOC added that decisions regarding summer vacations at educational institutions will be taken by the provincial governments.

Pakistan reported 20 deaths from the deadly virus the lowest in four months. The country's infection rate was reported at 2.5%.

Courtesy: Samaa

President Erdogan invites PM Imran Khan to Turkey: Qureshi



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has invited Prime Minister Imran Khan to Turkey, Foreign Minister Mehmood Qureshi said.

Qureshi, who returned after a three-day visit to Turkey, discussed with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu details of "high-level" consultation between President Erdogan and PM Khan.

The foreign minister met with Afghan Foreign Minister Hanif Atmar, High Council for National Reconciliation head Abdullah Abdullah and foreign ministers of other Central Asian countries at the

Antalya Diplomacy Forum.

"The peace process in Afghanistan has entered a critical stage in Antalya, there were several countries that have deep interests in Afghanistan," Qureshi said.

"If peace comes to Afghanistan, then central Asia will get connected to South Asia."

The foreign minister said he met the European Union's high representative for Turkey and he was asked to arrange a working visit of PM Khan to Brussels.

Courtesy: Samaa

UNODC-PACT in collaboration with NACTA handed over 20 converted Armoured Vehicles to the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Police with the financial support of the European Union (EU)

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Country Office Pakistan, in collaboration with the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) under the framework of Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism (PACT) project handed over twenty (20) converted Armoured Vehicles to the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Police with the financial support of the European Union (EU).



them have lost their lives on the front line in the fight against terrorism. She expressed her gratitude to all stakeholders of the PACT project, including KP Police, for their continued support in the implementation of activities; NACTA for providing overall guidance and oversight; and UNODC as dedicated implementing partner. She further added that 'the PACT project in KP has been guided by the conviction that for the fight against terrorism to be effective and sustainable, it has to be conducted according to principles of the rule of law', and that 'the project has contributed in two ways: on one hand it has strengthened the capacity of the law enforcement agencies and judiciary to respond to terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while on the other it has strengthened trust in these institutions'.

The handing over ceremony, held at Central Police Office Peshawar, was attended by the EU Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Ms Androulla Kaminara, Mr Jeremy Milsom UNODC Country Representative in Pakistan, and Mr Muhammad Ali Babakhel Director General (Research) NACTA.

Ambassador Kaminara presented the keys of the 20 converted AVs of CTD KP to the newly posted Inspector General Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mr Moazzam Jah Ansari. Before the formal handover the EU Ambassador in her speech appreciated the work of the police, specifically the CTD, as many of

On the occasion Mr Jeremy Milsom reaffirmed UNODC's continued support to the law enforcement and criminal justice agencies of the Province, and noted that the armoring of vehicles would contribute positively towards enhancing the mobility of the Police when responding to terrorist incidents. The UNODC Representative also mentioned other technical assistance provided by UNODC under the framework of PACT which included training 1,770 officials from the KP CTD, Police, Prosecution, and Judiciary. He observed that the project was indeed successful in strengthening coordination mechanisms, and has likewise improved the forensic and investigation techniques of the KP Police through provision of modern tools and techniques. Mr Milsom also mentioned UNODC's role in a holistic future intervention in the Province under Pakistan's Terrorism Prevention Programme signed with the Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan.

Mr Moazzam Ansari, IGP KP thanked the EU for its financial contribution in converting the police's regular vehicles into armored

vehicles. He also thanked UNODC and NACTA for their overall support, and for making this activity possible. While inspecting the armoured vehicles the IG appreciated their quality and the efforts of the teams involved in the conversion; and expressed the conviction that these vehicles would enable a safer working environment for KP CTD personnel by decreasing the risk of being targeted, especially in the high risk areas of the Newly Merged Districts (NMDs, ex-FATA), while responding to terrorism related incidents.

Mr Muhammad Babakhel, DG Research NACTA highlighted the key role of NACTA, and reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating and supporting KP Police in overcoming the challenges posed by terrorism by working in close partnership with the EU and UNODC. He was certain that all stakeholders would remain proactive and adopt strategies according to need and situation in view of the emerging developments in neighboring Afghanistan after the withdrawal of US and Coalition forces and its impact on the bordering regions of Pakistan.

Courtesy: <https://www.unodc.org/>

Pakistan will 'absolutely not' allow bases to US for action in Afghanistan: PM Imran

Prime Minister Imran Khan has categorically said that Pakistan would "absolutely not" allow any bases and use of its territory to the US for any sort of action inside Afghanistan.

"Absolutely not. There is no way we are going to allow any bases, any sort of action from Pakistani territory into Afghanistan. Absolutely not," the prime minister told Axios on HBO in an interview.

In an excerpt of the interview, to be aired on Sunday, on the Axios website, the interviewer Jonathan Swan had questioned, "Would you allow the American government to have CIA here in Pakistan to conduct cross-border counterterrorism missions against Al-Qaeda, ISIS or the Taliban?"

Surprised over his clear-cut response of "absolutely not", the



interviewer interrupts the prime minister to reconfirm his words asking, "Seriously?"

Axios on HBO is a documentary-news programme that combines the reporting of Axios journalists with the expertise of HBO filmmakers to explore the collision of tech, media, business, and politics.

The series has featured interviews with former US president Donald

Trump, Sundar Pichai, Elon Musk, Mary Barra, now US President Joe Biden, Andrew Yang and Kamala Harris, among others.

Recently, in his address in the Senate, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi ruled out the possibility of providing military bases to the United States for counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan.

He rejected as unfounded the reports to this effect and made it clear that the government would never provide military bases to the US, nor would allow drone attacks inside Pakistan.

In a cabinet briefing, Information Minister Chaudhry Fawad Hussain also ruled out the possibility of any airbase of the United States in Pakistan saying all such facilities were under Pakistan's own use.

He said it was the PTI-led government that ended 'drone surveillance' facility given to the US in the past.

"All the airbases are under the use of Pakistan. Right now, no negotiations in this regard are underway as Pakistan cannot give any airbase [to any country]," he said.

Courtesy: Dawn

UNODC in Collaboration with NACTA Organizes a Basic Terrorism Investigation Course for Newly Inducted Direct Inspectors



Under the framework of Pakistan's Action to Counter Terrorism (PACT) Sindh Project, UNODC in collaboration with the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), and with the financial support of the European Union, organized a Basic Terrorism Investigation Course for newly inducted direct inspectors from 24th May to 18th June 2021 at the Shahid Hayat Police Training College (PTC) School of Investigation, Saeedabad, Karachi. The workshop brought together participants from various districts of Sindh, with a significant number of women officers. There were 148 direct inspectors, divided into three groups, being trained simultaneously.

At the opening ceremony Col Ghulam Abbas, Senior Training and Programme Coordinator PACT, paid tribute to the sacrifices of the Sindh Police force, and lauded its efforts and successful operations throughout the province. Col Abbas stressed that this training would complement the efforts of Sindh Police, Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Sindh, and NACTA in developing a proactive response to the threats posed by terrorism.

On this occasion Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) Mr Naem Ahmed Sheikh formally opened the Training Session, and appreciated the efforts of the PACT team and UNODC in chalking out the rollout plan for capacity building of Sindh Police and CTD Sindh. In addressing the trainees he asked them to remain disciplined throughout the training rollout, and urged them to avail the benefits of the content developed by the PACT project. The DIG further thanked UNODC and EU for

providing this opportunity to Sindh Police despite the scenario of surging COVID-19 cases countrywide and other challenges.

After the joint opening for all three batches, formal training sessions commenced, whereby senior instructors explained the major concepts and rationale of the training; followed by sessions on community policing. All three groups at all times had the same training content delivered to them through different instructors, the common curriculum earlier designed vide a rigorous modules review process by the established Training Module Review Committee and a series of Training of Trainers sessions.

The training was also aimed at instilling leadership qualities in the trainees by introducing them to important concepts behind leadership, promoting teamwork, and inspiring them to be better supervisors of their police stations: these factors considered vital components of the course. Another training session was devoted to critical incident response, entailing different conceptual lessons and practical exercises, to help trainees understand the issues behind this seminal subject.



Anti-corruption, ethics, and integrity being critical elements for inculcation in police officers, a full day was devoted to these issues. All trainers at all times delivered conceptual sessions augmented by practical exercises, as per the optimal training methods for this course. The training concluded with a post-test and session on efficiency and discipline benchmarks in the Sindh police, likewise essential topics for any training regime for police officers.

Courtesy: <https://www.unodc.org/>

Saudi agrees to give Pakistan oil on deferred payment: report



Saudi Arabia will give Pakistan oil worth \$1.5 billion on deferred payment in July, the Financial Times reported.

Friction between the two countries increased last year after Pakistan's foreign minister criticized Saudi Arabia over its silence on India's revocation of Kashmir's special status.

"I am once again respectfully telling the OIC that a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers is our expectation," Qureshi had said in an interview last year.

"If you cannot convene it, then I'll be compelled to ask Prime Minister Imran Khan to call a meeting of the Islamic countries that are ready to stand with us on the issue of Kashmir and support the oppressed Kashmiris."

Pakistan had to repay a loan of \$3 billion on Riyadh's demand.

In May, Prime Minister Imran Khan visited Saudi Arabia. His meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman got the ties back on track.

A senior Pakistani official told FT that Pakistan's relationship with Saudi Arabia has recovered and the kingdom will support Islamabad through deferred payments on oil.

"Saudis are looking to resume their investment plans in Pakistan," the official was quoted as saying.

Courtesy: Samaa

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