

# Positive Post



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

## October in History

### November 26, 1964:

President Ayub Khan inaugurates Pakistan Television Lahore Station.

### November 13, 1966:

Punjab city of Montgomery renamed Sahiwal.

### November 18, 1967:

Pakistan awards Sitara-i-Imtiaz to Egyptian vocalist Umm-i-Kulsoom for singing the poetry of Allama Iqbal.

### November 24, 1978:

Pakistan wins Hockey Champion Trophy at Lahore, defeating Australia.

### November 30, 1987:

Local bodies election held throughout the country.

### November 16, 1988:

General elections held. PPP wins 92, IJI secures 54.

### November 6, 1990:

Nawaz Sharif elected Prime Minister, securing 153 votes.

### November 13, 1993:

Farooq Laghari elected eighth President of Pakistan.

### November 10, 2001:

US President Bush meets President Musharraf in New York and assures additional aid of one billion dollar.

### November 23, 2002:

Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali sworn in as Prime Minister.

### November 6, 2012:

US polls event organised in US embassy in Pakistan.

9 November, 2012: 135th Iqbal day celebrated with full zeal across the nation.

November 29, 2013: Pakistan Chief of Army Staff, General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani retires. General Raheel Sharif becomes the next COAS.

## 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 and Political outcomes.

## Federal Shariat Court finds women's protection law 'in line' with Islam

The Federal Shariat Court (FSC) on Tuesday gave a nod to a law passed by the Punjab Assembly for the protection of women and declared that it was not against the injunctions of Islam.

An FSC bench comprising Chief Justice Dr Syed Mohammad Anwar and Justice Khadim Hussain M. Sheikh announced reserved judgement on the Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Act, 2016 and said it was in line with the teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

The law, which was the first of its kind in the country, provided comprehensive protection to women against a range of crimes.

The judgement stated that in Islam, violence is disliked and strictly controlled and the religion has protected women from all sorts of violence.

The verdict quoted some hadith and added that Islam has "highly encouraged" and praised taking care of and protecting women from all kinds of violence.

"No provision of the impugned Act is against the injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), hence the captioned petitions are hereby DISMISSED," the judgement said, adding that there was no force in the petitioners' argument who challenged the act.

The court also conceded that the reports submitted by the respondents regarding the working and results of the Violence Against Women Center (VAWC) established under the impugned Act in Multan are "quite encouraging and positive".

The court also directed the Punjab government to ensure proper implementation of the law and roll it out in every district of the province.



The court also sought a compliance report on the implementation and rollout of the law.

While emphasising the importance of the said legislation, the court recommended that other provinces follow suit by enacting similar laws.

The bill was passed on February 24, 2016, by the Punjab Assembly, almost nine months after it was approved by the provincial cabinet in May 2015. The delay was caused because of in-house objections even from lawmakers belonging to the then ruling party PML-N.

The law provided protection to

women against a range of domestic, sexual, psychological and economic abuse, along with stalking and cyber crimes, perpetrated by their husband(s), sibling(s), adopted children, relatives and employers.

It also introduced for the first time an 'in-built implementation mechanism' through the district VAWCs, court orders (residence, protection and monetary) and the introduction of GPS-tracked electronic bracelets/ anklets on men to enforce protection orders and restrict the ability to enter any place to secure female victims.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Flood recovery plan key to continued financial support: IMF

Pakistan's timely finalisation of a recovery plan from devastating floods is essential to support discussions and continued financial support from multilateral and bilateral partners, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said.

Pakistan was already battling a full-blown economic crisis, with decades-high inflation and dwindling foreign exchange reserves, when it was hit by floods earlier this year. It had entered a \$6 billion IMF bailout programme in 2019, and the ninth review is currently pending.

"The timely finalisation of the recovery plan is essential to support the discussions, along with continuing financial support from multilateral and bilateral partners," IMF resident representative Esther Perez Ruiz said in a message to Reuters.

She added that IMF staff is continuing discussions with Pakistani authorities over policies to reprioritise and better target support toward humanitarian needs, while accelerating reform efforts to preserve economic and fiscal sustainability.



Devastating floods killed more than 1,700 people and inflicted billions of dollars of damage. Authorities' estimates of the damage have varied from \$10bn to \$40bn.

The finance ministry said last week that it would "expeditiously" finish technical engagement with the IMF as part of the ninth review of the programme, but a firm date for the review completion is yet to be announced.

The funds will be a lifeline for the South Asian nation, which is struggling to convince international markets, ratings agencies that it has the funds to meet external financing requirements, including debt repayments.

Pakistan has a \$1bn international bond repayment due early next month. Its total foreign reserves with the central bank stood at \$7.9bn as of last week.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## For first time ever, Pakistani movie 'the legend of Maula Jatt' beats Indian best movie of 2022



For the first time in history of Indian and Pakistani cinema, the latter's project commercially beats the former's film.

Bilal Lashari's blockbuster project \*The Legend of Maula Jatt\* seems to have beaten the lifetime business of SS Rajamouli's \*RRR\* in 17 days of its release in UK.

The claim was made by the \*The Legend of Maula Jatt\* Instagram account. Directed by Bilal Lashari, \*The Legend of Maula Jatt\* is a remake of Yunus Malik's 1979 cult classic of the same name.

The caption read, "Another day, another achievement! The Legend of Maula Jatt beats the highest grossing Indian movie of 2022, RRR's

lifetime business in just 17 days in UK! #TheLegendOfMaulaJatt in cinemas now, book your tickets today!"

Directed by SS Rajamouli, \*RRR\* sits at a worldwide collection of around INR 1200 crore making it India's highest grossing film starring Ram Charan and Jr NTR in pivotal roles.

On the other hand, \*The Legend of Maula Jatt\* revolves around the legendary rivalry between Noori Natt and Maula Jatt. The film stars Mahira Khan, Fawad Khan, Hamza Ali Abbasi, and Humaima Malik among others. The film is said to be made on one of the highest budgets in Pakistani film history.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Rs1.8tr to boost agri economy in aftermath of floods

In a bid to provide relief to the flood-hit agriculture sector, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced the 'Kissan Package' to the tune of Rs1,800 billion encompassing at least 600 subsidies to boost the agri economy of the country.

The package announced by Mr Sharif at a press conference at the Prime Minister's House also provides interest-free loans to farmers and youth, reduces the price of fertilisers and electricity, provides free seeds to flood-hit farmers, sanctions the import of used and low cost tractors, and conversion of tube wells from electricity to solar power.

The prime minister also promised to fully implement this package to stabilise the flood-hit agri sector within six months.

The government allocated Rs10.6bn to bear mark-up on agricultural loans to be given to the farmers in the flood-hit areas. "Rs10.6 billion were allocated for small farmers across the country while Rs8 billion would be given to the small farmers in the flood-affected areas," he added.

In rural areas, unemployed youth in the agriculture sector will be given loans to the tune of Rs50bn while Rs6.5bn will be given as a subsidy to waive off mark-up on these loans, the premier said, adding that it was for the first time youth of the rural areas were being given importance. He said these loans would be provided to the youth for agriculture projects so that they could contribute to the uplift of the agriculture sector.

The PM said the price of a 50 kg bag of DAP fertilizer was being reduced from Rs14,000 to

Rs11,250 and the government would bear a subsidy of Rs58 billion in this regard. He said the prices of DAP were brought down after tough negotiations with the fertilizer sector to facilitate farmers.

PM Sharif said that for the first time in the country, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) were being introduced in the agriculture sector and a subsidy worth Rs10 billion will be given on loans to be availed by the SMEs. "Landless farmers in the flood-affected areas would be given Rs5 billion and SMEs working in the agriculture sector would also be given loans of Rs10 billion for modernisation schemes," he said.

Under the package, the government would encourage the import of low-cost tractors as well. Five-year-old tractors would be imported with a relaxation of 50 per cent in duties and the government would also encourage the entry of new tractor manufacturers by decreasing duty on completely knocked down units from 35 per cent to 15 per cent, the premier said.

In order to get maximum yield, 500,000 tons of urea was being imported (200,000 tons has already been received), the PM said, adding that a Rs30 billion subsidy will be given on the import duty.

PM Sharif said 1.2 million bags of certified seeds worth Rs13.20 billion would be distributed among the farmers and the federal and provincial governments would share the funds required for the distribution. In order to meet the local demand for wheat, at least 2.6 million tonnes of



wheat was being imported, the premier said, adding that 1 million tonne of the grain has already been imported while 1.6 million tonne will be imported soon.

The government will also convert at least 300,000 electricity tube wells to solar energy, as currently, at least 1 million tube wells were being run on electricity, the premier said. Shehbaz Sharif added that the interest on loans to convert these installations will be borne by the government.

The package also fixed the price of electricity for the agriculture sector at Rs13 per unit and Rs43 billion has been allocated to support this initiative, the prime minister said. The prime minister recalled that the last government of Nawaz Sharif had also given financial support of Rs100 billion to small farmers in the country.

Talking about flood relief and rehabilitation efforts, the PM said financial assistance of Rs88 billion was already given to the flood-affected people, including Rs70 billion through the Benazir Income Support Programme while the remaining amount was given through the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Pak-Afghan border reopens after a week

Pakistan on Monday reopened its border with Afghanistan at Chaman, which remained closed for a week hampering trade between the two neighbouring countries as well as the movement of people through the Friendship Gate.

On November 13, the border at Chaman was closed for an indefinite period after an armed suspect from the Afghan side opened fire on Pakistani security personnel at Friendship Gate, resulting in the martyrdom of one soldier and injuries to two.

The decision to reopen the border was taken at a meeting between Pakistani border authorities and Taliban officials held in Chaman.

"The border has been reopened after successful negotiations with the Afghan authorities with some conditions," Chaman Deputy Commissioner Abdul Hameed Zehri said, adding that the decisions taken at the meeting would be strictly implemented.

These screengrabs show vehicular and pedestrian traffic moving via the Friendship Gate at the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan at Chaman. The border post, which is a key route for the movement of goods and people between the two countries, reopened on Monday after more than a week.

The Afghan government assured Pakistan that the terrorist involved in the firing would be arrested as soon as possible and brought to justice.

After the opening of the border, Afghan transit trade as well as import and export of goods between the two countries have resumed.

Hundreds of trucks carrying goods were stranded on both sides of the border which created a shortage of tomato, onion and other vegetables in Balochistan.

Official sources said Pakistani customs cleared a large number of trucks which crossed into Afghanistan loaded with different goods, while



trucks also entered Pakistan from Spin Boldak.

A large number of Afghan and Pakistani citizens struck up on both sides of the border due to closure of the crossing point were also allowed to cross into their respective countries.

FIA officials said only those Pakistanis were allowed to enter Chaman who had legal travelling documents and national identity cards. "Afghans carrying their country's identity cards were also allowed to enter Pakistan," the officials said.

Meanwhile, security has been beefed up at the Pak-Afghan border in view of the November 13 firing incident.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## PM hopes to revive CPEC, expand trade with maiden China visit

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is embarking on a two-day official visit to China on in an effort to revive the multi billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), expand trade and investment ties with the neighbouring country by making optimal use of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement.

According to the Prime Minister Office (PMO), PM Sharif is paying his first visit to China since assuming office in April, at the invitation of Li Keqiang, premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

"Pakistan can serve as the manufacturing base for China and an extension of its industrial and supply chain network," the PM wrote in an opinion article published in Chinese newspaper Global Times on Sunday.

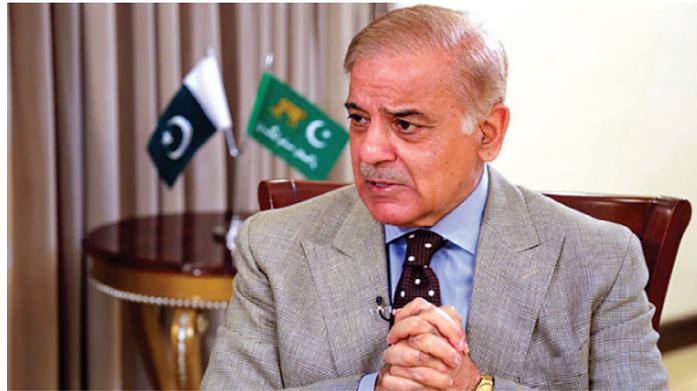
"There are three types of good friends: one that is direct and honest; one that is trustworthy, dependable and generous when you need help; and one that is knowledgeable and talented to guide you and show you what you can't see," he quoted Confucius as having once said about friends and friendships.

Mr Sharif further said in the article that the 21st century demanded a new paradigm to deal with the emerging challenges as well as opportunities, and to wean the region away from conflict and conflagration.

"We seek friendly relations with our neighbouring countries on the basis of mutual respect and spirit of cooperation, and desire peaceful resolution of all outstanding disputes, including the Kashmir issue, through dialogue and diplomacy based on the UN charter and resolutions," he stated.

Read more: Pakistan willing to bridge US-China differences, says Shehbaz

He also wrote that the two countries could fast-track bilateral



cooperation to boost corporate farming, efficient water usage, development of hybrid seeds and high yield crops and establish cold storage chains. "This cooperation has assumed an added importance to address common concerns related to food security," he added.

He also said the CPEC's next phase would encompass key areas such as industry, energy, agriculture, ICT, rail and road network and developing Gwadar port as a hub of trade and transshipment, investment and regional connectivity.

"Our overall aim is to harness the potential of CPEC for Pakistan's inclusive and sustainable growth, socioeconomic development and for improving the livelihoods of our people," he added.

The PMO said Prime Minister Sharif was looking forward to meeting the Chinese leadership for a series of "productive and fruitful meetings" aimed at boosting business, strategic and people-to-people relations.

Later, addressing the first steering committee meeting of the Pakistan China Business and Investment Forum (PCBIF), he emphasised on creating a favourable environment for building a business-to-business relationship.

"Let's join hands and move forward to create a win-win situation for the Chinese and Pakistani businessmen and investors," he added.

He termed the CPEC a game-changer for development in

Pakistan with billions of dollars of investment already committed by Chinese companies. He stressed the need for relocation of the labour-intensive Chinese industry to Pakistan in view of cheap labour by establishing Special Economic Zones, calling it a win-win scenario for both sides.

The PM expressed gratitude to China for being one of the largest donors of relief assistance for the flood-affected people in Pakistan and also for setting up an air bridge for the supply of tents, food and medicine.

Also read: PM Shehbaz hopes to further deepen ties with China during his visit

He also lauded the efforts of Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong for his immense contribution to strengthening Pak-China relations in diverse fields.

Economic potential  
Later, in a press conference, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal while terming Pakistan and China iron brothers stressed the need for exploiting the potential of their economic cooperation. He said the CPEC had added a new dimension to the bilateral relations of Pakistan and hoped the PCBIF would encourage Chinese investment in Pakistan because the future belonged to "turning the iron brotherhood into economic partnership".

The minister urged the PCBIF to work towards the inclusion of Pakistani enterprises into China's global supply chain.

"The best help China can provide to Pakistan is to help improve its export potential," he said, adding the government looked forward to building a robust private sector partnership with Chinese enterprises. He assured removing bottlenecks to attract Chinese investors.

Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI) Chaudhry Salik Hussain said the board was fostering business cooperation between Pakistan and China and also signed a framework agreement on promoting Special Economic Zones and relocation of industries to Pakistan.

Aimed at industrial cooperation, he said, the BOI had drafted a set of joint initiatives that would be submitted to the Chinese investors and enterprises during PM Sharif's visit to China.

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong, who is also the PCBIF patron, expressed satisfaction with the forum's pace of work, which included holding of the first-ever meeting of the steering committee and the launch of an exclusive website.

In line with the directives of Chinese President Xi Jinping, he said, the country would continue to provide flood relief assistance to Pakistan.

According to the PMO, a high-level delegation would be accompanying the prime minister during his visit to China where he would meet President Xi Jinping and hold delegation-level talks with Premier Li Keqiang.

"The visit is also expected to advance the wide-ranging bilateral cooperation agenda with the conclusion of a number of MoUs/agreements in diverse areas, and consolidate the momentum of CPEC cooperation in the wake of the 11th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee on Oct 27," an official statement said.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## A big surprise for fans of Shoaib Malik and Sania Mirza

The cross-border star couple Shoaib Malik and Sania Mirza was in news for the last couple of days as reports suggested that the duo heading for a divorce.

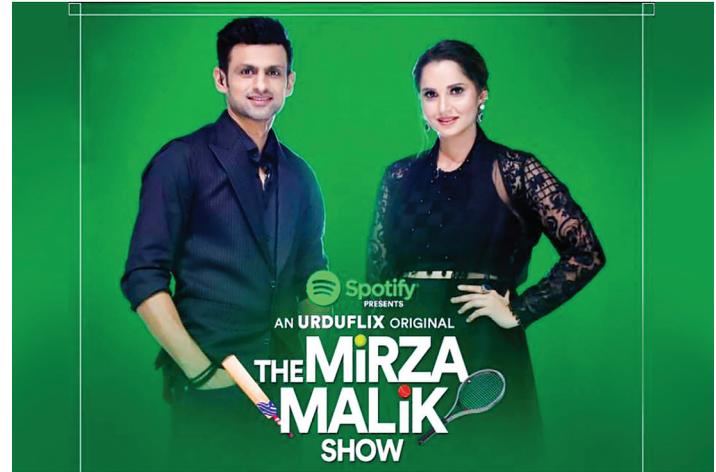
As the rumours were rife, curious fans were given the first look of new talk show hosted by Sania and Shoaib.

As the first poster of the show was shared by country's first Urdu OTT

platform Urduflix, it started garnering attention with people wondering if the duo's split was mere a publicity stunt ahead of the show.

The poster featured ace tennis star Sania Mirza and former Pakistani player Shoaib Malik with her hand on his shoulder posing for the cover. Burj Khalifa can be seen in a window in the background as the couple resided in UAE.

*Courtesy: Dawn*



## PM lands in Beijing to 'breathe new life' into CPEC

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif landed in Beijing on his maiden visit to the neighbouring country with the basic purpose of revitalising the ambitious China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), seeking investment in various sectors in Pakistan and increasing bilateral trade.

According to the Prime Minister Office (PMO), the prime minister, during his visit, will meet the Chinese leadership and review the all-weather strategic partnership and discuss regional and global developments.

Upon his arrival at the Beijing airport, PM Sharif was accorded a red carpet welcome as smartly-turned out contingents of the Chinese forces presented him with a guard of honour, the PMO statement said.

During his first official visit to China after assuming office in April, the premier will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. He is heading a high-level delegation, including federal ministers, special assistants as well as the Sindh chief minister.

The PM is among the first world leaders to visit China following the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China that elected Xi Jinping as the party's general secretary.

Prime Minister Sharif is also scheduled to meet Chinese investors and Pakistani businessmen. The visit is expected to advance the wide-ranging bilateral cooperation agenda

with the conclusion of a number of memoranda of understanding /agreements in diverse areas, and consolidate the momentum of CPEC cooperation in the wake of the 11th meeting of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) held on October 27.

The coalition government in Islamabad has already accused the previous Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government of slowing down the pace of CPEC rather putting it "in the doldrums".

Earlier, the prime minister had said in a tweet that during his visit, he would hold discussions with the Chinese leadership on strengthening of bilateral relations, particularly revitalization of the multi-billion-dollar CPEC project. He said the second phase of the project promised to usher in a new era of socio-economic progress that would uplift the quality of people's lives.

"There is a lot to learn from Chinese economic miracle," he tweeted, stressing that his discussions with the Chinese leadership would focus on revitalization of the CPEC among many other things.

Mr Sharif also said he was honoured to be among the first few leaders to have been invited after the "historic" 20th National Congress of China's Communist Party.

'CPEC to supplement SCO vision' Over in Beijing, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said the CPEC was significant in supplementing the vision of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO),



aimed at ensuring shared prosperity through regional connectivity and integration.

Addressing at the 21st Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of the SCO, the minister said the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative would build greater connectivity across the SCO region and help unlock the economic potential of intra-SCO cooperation, as reported by APP.

The meeting was virtually hosted by China, as the current Chair of the SCO CHG, and attended by the heads of governments of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as well as representatives from SCO observer states.

The foreign minister emphasized the importance of enhancing economic and trade cooperation between SCO member states. Reaffirming the importance Pakistan attached to the forum, the foreign minister highlighted actions taken by Pakistan under various agreements and projects for advancing regional cooperation based on principles enunciated in the 'Shanghai Spirit'.

Sharing Pakistan's experience of several successful initiatives to alleviate poverty, he also announced

that the first meeting of the SCO Special Working Group on Poverty Alleviation would be held in Islamabad in December.

Commenting on the importance of achieving lasting peace and security in the region for economic development, Mr Bhutto-Zardari stressed the need to address the scourge of terrorism in all its manifestations, including state terrorism. He also underlined the importance of sustained and practical engagement with Afghanistan.

Talking to the media in Islamabad, APP reported that she regretted the multi-billion-dollar project was "halted" during the PTI government, adding not even a single meeting of the JCC was held during its tenure. She claimed the present government had removed all obstacles in the way of Chinese investment and put all the halted projects back on track.

Ironically, she said, PTI chief Imran Khan had once again launched a long march "to spread chaos and anarchy" when the prime minister left for China. During the visit, new accords would be signed with focus on the progress of ongoing projects, she added.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## UN chief proposes debt relief for Pakistan

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Monday appealed to the international financial institutions and to the G20 nations to create mechanisms of debt relief for middle-income countries impacted by natural disasters, including Pakistan, while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif highlighted how some countries will be more exposed and vulnerable to climate change than those in cooler regions.

Addressing a joint press conference with PM Sharif following a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the COP27 climate summit here, the UN chief said being a middle-income country, Pakistan hadn't benefited from debt relief at the level that should be necessary for the country.

"One of the proposals that I've been making is that for countries like Pakistan, there should be a way to swap the payment of their debt for investments in rehabilitation and recovery and reconstruction from a natural disaster like the one that just occurred," a UN press release quoted him as saying.

Mr Guterres also believed the way the international financial system worked needed to be reviewed in order for Pakistan to access effective debt relief and concessional funding that was necessary for the "huge" levels of reconstruction and rehabilitation.

PM says recovery from floods held back by rising public debt, energy prices and lack of adaptation funds Speaking on the occasion, PM Sharif said: "We are poised on the threshold of a new green deal or a trajectory to a three-degree world where returning to the Earth as we know today will be impossible. Some countries, like Pakistan, will be more exposed and more deeply vulnerable than others."

Addressing the UN secretary general, he said: "Our journey to recovery will be held back by increasing public debt, rising international energy prices and no real access to adaptation funds. At the broader level, we seek to add



loss and damage to the climate agenda."

The PM remarked that his goals and those of the UN chief were the same: to "not let helplessness become a death sentence in this race against time", adding: "What goes on in Pakistan will not stay in Pakistan."

Mr Guterres also recalled his visit to Pakistan where he saw an "area flooded that is three times the size of my country, Portugal". He also lauded the courage, resilience, and generosity of the people who "decided to leave their property and leave their assets to go and rescue other people's assets and property instead of protecting their own", a UN press release quoted him as saying.

He said it was the international community's duty to massively support Pakistan in this moment, adding though more needed to be done. The UN chief said the COP summit needed to recognize the loss and damage and define a clear roadmap to deal with it, which he said should include the creation of an institutional framework and financing.

PM seeks international support Earlier, during their bilateral meeting, the premier said the enormous task of rehabilitation and reconstruction following the recent devastating floods in the country would require substantial international support to build back greener, based on the model of sustainable development.

He quoted the government's Post-Disaster Needs Assessment that the total estimated damage caused by the floods was over \$32 billion around 10 per cent of the

country's gross domestic product. The prime minister highlighted this during his meeting with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the COP27 Summit being held here, APP quoted a press release issued by the PM Media Wing as saying.

The premier also reiterated that the unprecedented disaster was a clear manifestation of the challenge posed by climate change, and endorsed the secretary general's call for climate justice and climate solidarity.

He said Pakistan was looking forward to convening an international 'pledging conference' bringing together all development partners. He also appreciated the creation of a UN inter-agency team, led by the deputy secretary general, to help Pakistan prepare a comprehensive rehabilitation and reconstruction plan to be presented at the conference.

With reference to COP27, the PM said the conference was a timely opportunity for the international community to catalyse concerted international action to mitigate the impact of climate change, and promote climate justice based on the principles of equity, but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

He emphasised that addressing "loss and damage" would be a key "deliverable" at the event.

'Common charter for planet' Earlier on Monday, PM Sharif said the international community must come together to create a common charter for the survival of the planet. In his meeting with United Arab Emirates President

Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the sidelines of the COP27 Summit, the PM welcomed the international community's commitment, especially the Islamic world, to the goals and objectives of the conference.

Dealing with the effects of climate change was not for the developing countries alone, he added.

Meanwhile, the heads of state and governments in their interaction with PM Sharif on the sidelines of the summit termed his passion extraordinary, featuring efforts for urgent steps to save the country from the natural disaster, according to the PM Office.

The prime minister in his meetings with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Indonesian Vice President Maroof Amin, Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid, and Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati drew the attention of the international community to help Pakistan overcome the risks of climate change.

He highlighted the damage suffered by Pakistan in the wake of the recent flash floods and emphasized transforming the key climate-related decisions into concrete actions and credible plans.

Environmental lawyer Ahmed Rafay Alam told Dawn over the phone from Sharm el-Sheikh that the recognition and inclusion of loss and damage on the agenda gets the ball rolling.

The momentum is in the right direction, and now it is up to negotiators in the next two weeks to come up with a concrete plan. "The countries impacted by climate change need a window to get funds, which aren't attached to any conditions and aren't loans, but grants. Countries aren't going to give money without a transparent mechanism by the receiving party that ensures the money is going where it's needed," he added.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Comment: Pakistan rediscover the magic of 1992 — for real

Sometimes the heavens align. Sometimes it snows in April. Sometimes the magic takes hold of Pakistan cricket, rescues it from the jaws of despair, and clears its path to the pinnacle. At times like this it is best to go with the mood, to trip the light fantastic, to savour Pakistan's version of magical realism. The Netherlands created the mood, and Pakistan's bowlers, led by the star shaped celebrations of Shaheen Shah Afridi, propelled Pakistan into the T20 World Cup semifinals.

New Zealand await Pakistan under the Sydney lights in an echo of 1992. The romantics among us see shades of the cornered tigers in almost every tournament, but for once those comparisons may be genuine.

A miserable start followed by a do or die resurgence. Inspirational bowlers carrying a batting order rediscovering its mojo. Qualification against the odds, delivered by rain, luck, and other results. A left-arm fast bowler perfecting his art; lethal round the wicket. A young leg spinner seizing the world stage. A new international batsman, fearless and audacious. A low-key final group game to see Pakistan safely into the semi-finals. These are the welcome shadows of the past.

And the Adelaide Oval, a historic ground that has seen almost 150 years of cricket, where higher powers intervene to keep Pakistan's hopes alive. Now, by inspiring the Netherlands to a shock victory over as lacklustre a South African team as you will find. Then, in 1992, by conjuring a rainstorm that saved Pakistan from certain defeat to England and allowed Imran Khan's team to progress.

The Green Shirts will clash with New Zealand in the semifinals on November 9.

The similarities are everywhere, and by Wednesday they may well mean nothing, but for now, in this sweet moment, they are powerful and beg the question of whether the miracle can be reworked? History, some say, is circular, always returning to the same point. Well, Pakistan are here again, defying all expectations, with



New Zealand standing between them and a World Cup Final at Australia's Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Perhaps, most importantly, Pakistan have momentum, which is often decisive in the final stages of a world tournament. England have it too another echo. But it isn't fate or circumstance that creates momentum, it is the players, the energy they bring, and the manner of their victories.

Pakistan's momentum resides predominantly in their exquisite bowling attack. This is no statement blinkered by jingoism but a verdict supported by fact. For speed, control, and impact there isn't a pace attack that can match Pakistan's. The best decision that coach and captain made was to opt for the attacking option of picking four fast bowlers, and deploy them exclusively in the power play and at the death.

Since that switch, Pakistan haven't conceded more than 130 runs admittedly South Africa's innings was rain affected. Those high

pressure performances carried Pakistan. If one of the quartet struggles, the others compensate. Haris Rauf, Naseem Shah, and Mohammad Wasim, have all played their part, with Shah's audacious change of pace bamboozling Bangladesh as they sought to accelerate.

But the fast bowling hits a higher note now that Afridi is on song. In Adelaide, he delivered an early breakthrough, as he often does, luring dangerous Litton Das into an aerial cut. And when Bangladesh threatened to rally, it was Afridi's match defining three wickets that ripped the soul out of Bangladesh's innings. No team enjoys facing a confident Afridi, and Shaheen Shah at his best makes this attack world class.

The other key wickets fell to Pakistan's spinners. Iftikhar Ahmed showed his growing value with a tight spell and the prize scalp of Najmul Hussain Shanto. Yet the decisive moment once more was courtesy of Shadab Khan, whose reputation as a wicket taking threat in the middle overs is blossoming.



Bangladesh were dangerously placed at 73 for one in the 11th over, before two wickets in two balls from Shadab. They only managed another 54 runs. Controversy accompanied the LBW decision against Shakib Al Hasan, but Pakistan have had their share of misfortune via the decision review system and the third umpire's call was marginal but fair.

Pakistan needed excellence from their bowlers, as Mohammad Rizwan and Babar Azam again struggled to master Australian conditions. Rizwan was more successful, and it was his unorthodox technique that was largely responsible for a 57 run partnership. But it was hard to watch and they didn't dominate. Babar, in particular, is in horrible form, a player of effortless class finding each run a great effort.

Mohammad Nawaz, sent in at number three, struggled too. Any target induces anxiety in a knockout game, and Nawaz is finding it hard to hold his nerve in key moments. The start added unnecessarily to the pressure.

It was a relief, then, and a sharp contrast, when Muhammad Haris leapt to the attack and again fearlessly grabbed the initiative. A more orthodox cameo from Masood, who seemed liberated lower down the order, settled the game and Pakistani nerves.

The bowlers and middle order are carrying the team in this World Cup, and Pakistan have another level to reach once their top order starts to function. That may take a hard decision about where the captain bats, but if he and Rizwan prosper too Pakistan will be truly formidable opponents.

Pakistan's second world title in Australia is, from nowhere, more than a distant dream. This is the way of Pakistan cricket, and the noise of Pakistan's prospects is a growing clamour, where the mood and the moment are amplified by echoes of a legendary past. At times like these, the magic of Pakistan cricket feels almost real.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Unmatched ceremony kicks off World Cup in Qatar

A WELCOME like none other in the past; an extravaganza of dance, music and choreography with a continuous message of unity.

Twelve years after it was awarded the right to host the World Cup, Qatar opened the tournament in spectacular fashion on Sunday at its bedouin tent-styled Al Bayt Stadium in the desert.

The tiny Gulf state has spent an estimated \$220 billion to host the first World Cup of the Arab world and it certainly spared no expense in an Olympic-style ceremony.

be “a strong visual concept, a bespoke musical project and world class talents interlacing Qatari tradition with worldwide culture”.

It certainly was, and it began after a former France World Cup-winning defender of 1998, Marcel Desailly, brought the World Cup trophy to the pitch.

Freeman, the five-time Oscar nominee, opened with a message of unity one that Qatar has been preaching in the face of widespread criticism after its suspicious award to host football's showpiece tournament before it was targeted for its size and



of drums and swords being wielded.

Freeman was back then, saying “football spans the world and unites the nation”, before a video montage of the history of football in Qatar was played, showing people playing the game in the desert.

Qatar's emir not only welcomed people on behalf of Qatar but also the Arab world. Alongside him were two leaders from countries that had been part of the Arab blockade of Qatar in 2017 Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sissi in another message of unity.

The opening ceremony came to a close, but there was then a stunning welcome for both teams as well ahead of the opener.

A giant replica of the World Cup trophy was placed on the centre of the pitch before fireworks and a light show encircled it.

FIFA chief Gianni Infantino, who had defended Qatar's right to host the World Cup in an impassioned news conference on Saturday, opened the tournament to loud cheers.

“Mabrook,” said Infantino. “Welcome to celebrate football because football unites the world.”

Now, the onus was on Qatar's national team, making their bow at football's biggest stage, to follow it all up with a performance of its own. It couldn't, being swept aside by Ecuador 2-0.

*Courtesy: Dawn*



“How beautiful it is for people to put aside what divides them in order to celebrate their diversity,” Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said to loud cheers in his address in Arabic. “Let this tournament be full of inspiring days of goodness and hope, and welcome everyone to the world in Doha.”

No sooner had he finished, and after the arrival of the tournament's mascot La'eeb on the pitch, fireworks and pyrotechnics illuminated the evening sky ahead of the World Cup opener between the hosts and Ecuador.

Opening ceremony organisers, with creative director Marco Balich a veteran of several Olympic opening and closing ceremonies had said the seven-act gala narrated by Morgan Freeman would

ability to hold it as well as on rights of migrant workers and LGBTQ persons.

Freeman took to the stage with Ghanim Al Muf-tah, a Qatari entrepreneur and philanthropist who suffers from Caudal Regressing Syndrome, an ailment which impairs the development of lower spine.

A recitation from the holy Quran about diversity was read out by Al Muftah and then came the musical show.

South Korean pop star Jung Kook of BTS, dressed in black, and Qatari singer Fahad Al Kubaisi sang a duet of the official World Cup song Dreamers.

The Arabic 'Ardha' war dance followed to the beat

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