



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

July in History

July 8, 1947: *Constituent Assembly of Pakistan approves the design of Pakistan.*

July 9, 1948: *Pakistan's first postage stamp is issued.*

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

July 14, 1953: *Wazir Mansion Karachi, the birthplace of Quaid-e-Azam, is declared protected national monument.*

July 17, 1958: *First Nigar Film Awards held.*

July 12, 1959: *Shukriya Niaz Ali becomes first woman pilot of Pakistan.*

July 31, 1690: *Foundation stone of Mazar-i-Quaid (Mausoleum of M.A. Jinnah) is laid.*

July 15, 1961: *Jasmine is chosen as the national flower of Pakistan.*

July 31, 1964: *Pakistan, Iran and Turkey agree to establish RCD*

July 2, 1972: *Simla Agreement is signed between President Bhutto and Prime Minister Indra Gandhi.*

July 24, 1976: *Labore-Amritsar train service, Samjhota Express starts.*

July 31, 1976: *A.Q. Khan research laboratories established.*

July 8, 1986: *Peshawar Dry Port is inaugurated.*

July 17, 1991: *Pakistan unveils first battle tank Al-Khalid manufactured jointly by Pakistan and China.*

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

July 11, 2003: *Labore-Delhi bus service resumed after suspension of 18 months.*

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

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.



Army chief reaches out to US on 'matter of economic security'

The head of Pakistan's military has reached out to Washington to request help in securing an early disbursement of funds from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), officials said.

In a dispatch from New York, Nikkei Asia reported that "dwindling foreign reserves" have sparked "a scramble in Islamabad to avoid a default."

Gen Bajwa's phone call to US Deputy Secretary of State was part of Pakistan's efforts to avoid a default, the report added.

Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar, when asked about the conversation between Army Chief Gen Qamar Bajwa and Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, told journalists in Islamabad on Friday: "Well, I understand conversation has taken place, but at this stage, I am not in direct knowledge of the content of this discussion."

Bajwa-Sherman conversation on early release of IMF tranche reported by Nikkei Asia; COAS, Centcom chief discuss security

When Dawn asked the US State Department for confirmation, one of their spokespersons said: "US officials talk to Pakistani officials regularly on a range of issues."

"As standard practice, we don't comment on the specifics of private diplomatic conversations."

Earlier this month, one of the prime minister's advisers Tariq Fatemi also met the deputy secretary at her office and conveyed a similar message. Later, both sides issued separate statements, saying that economic matters were discussed in the meeting.

The Nikkei report said Gen. Bajwa had made an appeal for the White House and Treasury Department to push the IMF to immediately supply nearly \$1.2 billion that Pakistan is due to receive under a resumed loan program.

The report noted that the present Pakistani government "does not have much credibility or political capital beyond Islamabad, and faces persistent pressure from ousted rival Imran Khan."

That's why observers say "power lies with Gen. Bajwa, 61, an infantry officer" although he is due to retire in November after a three-year extension.

According to the report, while Pakistan has already been granted "staff-level approval" for the loan, it will only be processed after the lender's board grants final approval.

"The IMF is going into recess for the next three weeks and its board



will not convene until late August. No firm date has been set for announcing the loan approval for Pakistan," the report quoted an IMF official as saying.

On Thursday, the State Department had said it remains engaged with a range of stakeholders in Pakistan, but it does not support one political party over another.

Spokesperson Ned Price said this at a news briefing in Washington where he also emphasized the US policy of supporting democratic principles across the globe.

"We remain engaged with a range of stakeholders in Pakistan. With those currently in governments, in a broad array of others, but I'm just not in a position to speak to any such meeting," said Mr. Price while responding to a question about a reported meeting between a PTI representative and senior State Department official, Donald Lu.

Mr. Lu, who heads the bureau for South and Central Asian Affairs

at the State Department, is the official blamed by PTI in an alleged conspiracy to topple their government.

"If there was any such meeting, I just not in a position to speak to it," said Mr. Price, when asked if a PTI representative had met Mr. Lu, asking him to "forget the past and move ahead."

"We support the peaceful upholding of constitutional and democratic principles, including respect for human rights. We don't support one political party over another. We support those broader principles of the rule of law and equal justice under the law," he added.

Gen Bajwa and General Michael Erik Kurilla, Commander United States (US) centcom had a telephonic conversation, ISPR stated. During the call, matters of mutual interests, regional stability as well as defence and security cooperation were discussed in detail.

Courtesy: Dawn

37-member Punjab cabinet takes oath

Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman administered the oath to the provincial ministers. The ministers, who took the oath, included Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Maher Ijaz Ahmad Achalana, Siddique Khan Baloch, Kazim Ali Pirzada, Chaudhry Shafiq, Malik Nadeem Kamran, Mian Yawar Zaman, Colonel (retd) Ayub Gadhi, Chaudhry Iqbal Gujjar, Muhammad Manshaullah Butt, Tanveer Aslam Malik, Jahangir Khanzada, Rana Mashhood Ahmed, Mian Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman, Khawaja Imran Nazir, Bilal Yasin, Malik Saiful Mulok Khokhar, Fida Hussain Wattoo, Rana Ejaz Noon, Ms. Uzma Zahid

Bukhari, Khalil Tahir Sindhu, Colonel (Rtd) Rana Muhammad Tariq, Ghulam Qasim Hanjara, Zaheer Iqbal Chanar, Zeeshan Rafiq, Sania Ashiq, Syed Hasan Murtaza, Syed Ali Haider Gilani, Bilal Asghar Waraich, Qasim Abbas Linga, Malik Asad Khokhar, Ahmed Ali Aulakh, Sabatin Bukhari, Saba Sadiq, Rana Liaquat, Ashraf Ansari and Imran Khalid Butt.

Chief Secretary Kamran Ali Afzal read out the notification. The Inspector General of Police, Punjab, Members of Provincial Assembly, Information Secretary and a large number of dignitaries attended the



ceremony.

Meanwhile, Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has said the large cabinet in Punjab is a blatant violation of the Supreme Court decision

In a statement, he said one person out of three had been made a minister. He said that the oath of

the Punjab cabinet was no less than a joke. "The trustee Chief Minister is making a mockery of the Supreme Court order by giving away ministries. Even the swearing-in of the Punjab cabinet and the size of the cabinet cannot save the rulers, who are guilty of unconstitutional actions and should be tried for contempt of court," he added.

Courtesy: The News

Around 100 embark for K2 summit, six scale Broad Peak

At least one hundred climbers from multiple expeditions began their push for the K2 summit, to take advantage of weather conditions that are likely to remain clear until July 22.

Meanwhile, six climbers managed to scale Broad Peak as several foreigners started their push to reach on top of the peak which is 8,051m high.

Sources at base camp told that climbers were taking advantage of the clear weather window

Before their departure to higher camps, a puja ceremony was held at the base camp by Nepalese climbers who prayed for their safety during the ascent and descent from the summit. "This is first summit push this season team members have already fixed ropes from base camp to Camp 3 [have] deposited oxygen, and stocked tents with food," the sources added.

Sakhawat Hussain from Summit Karakoram told Dawn that 10 climbers from the Pioneer Adventure team, 23 climbers from the 8K

Expeditions team, three climbers from the Dolma team, and four climbers from the Makalu Extreme team started the summit push on Monday. Climbers from Elite Expeditions, Imagine Nepal, Seven Summits Treks, and Adventure Pakistan also started their summit push.

Base camp sources told Dawn that 250 total climbers would be in action at K2 this summer, while 150 climbers had abandoned their attempts to push for the summit.

Mingma G, the expedition leader of Imagine Nepal team, said that K2 gives a limited weather window and they would depart for the K2 summit push on Monday. "None of our Sherpa and members went above Camp 2 and we were supposed to set up our Camp 3 before summit push but I am here with my best team and we don't give up anything easily," he said in a statement on social media.

"We have Rene Dai from Netherlands who is 65 years and trying [to scale] K2 for the fifth time and he alone is enough to inspire us towards



our goal. I will have a picture with him on the summit," Mingma G said.

Another Imagine Nepal team will depart for the Broad Peak push, said the climber as he hoped to see his team reach the summit on July 20.

According to a statement by 8K Expeditions, their team will be heading to Camp 2 and hopefully summit by July 21.

Sakhawat Hussain confirmed to Dawn that six climbers, including two from his company, summited

the peak at 2pm on Monday. Luc Benoit from Canada and Louis from Bolivia were among the six climbers who reached the top. The names of the other four summiteers could not be known till the filing of this report.

Meanwhile, other expedition teams also started their efforts to summit Broad Peak and Gasherbrum-II. Pakistani climber Sajid Ali Sadpara, who started his Broad Peak summit, had also reached Camp 2 by evening.

Courtesy: Dawn

Alvi ready to facilitate talks to end crises

President Arif Alvi underscored the need for political parties to come together to tame political and economic challenges faced by Pakistan and said the President House was "ready to play its role" to facilitate reconciliation.

Speaking to media persons at the Presidency, President Alvi said he did not have the authority to direct political players to hold dialogue. He, however, reiterated the need for a consultative process within the ambit of the Constitution to tackle the prevalent problems, especially inflation.

According to the president, political and economic uncertainty could further polarise the society which was detrimental to everyone's interest.

As per a senior journalist who attended the meeting, the president said that all pillars of the state and institutions should play their constitutional role for transparent elections in Pakistan as a govern-

ment that would come to power through free and fair elections could provide "much-needed political, financial and economic stability".

The president said that he had a good working relationship with the current government and had no confrontation with the prime minister. He said he had received 74 summaries from the present government out of which 69 summaries had been assented to without any delay.

Replying to a question about the early appointment of the army chief, the president said that if the appointment of the army chief was initiated through the laid down procedure under relevant laws and contained the formal approval of the relevant institutions and offices, then he would have no objections to it.

He added that there was no harm if the appointment of the next chief of army staff (COAS) was made before the expiry of the tenure of the



incumbent COAS, General Qamar Javed Bajwa. "In my opinion, there is no harm in appointing the next army chief before the expiry of the incumbent's term," said the president.

In response to a question regarding the procedure surrounding the appointment of the COAS, the president said parliament should set procedure regarding the appointment of the army chief and possible extensions to his term.

COAS Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, who was given an extension by the previous PTI government in 2019, will leave his position on November

29 when his second three-year tenure comes to an end. "In my opinion, there is no harm in making the army chief's appointment ahead of time," the president added.

Responding to a question regarding the formation of a parliamentary committee to pursue a treason case against him, President Alvi said he had been performing his duties within the bounds of the Constitution and with a clear conscience; therefore, he would clarify his position if such a situation arose.

While responding to a question about the presidential system, President Alvi said the parliamentary system was a tried and tested system and had evolved over a period of time as the best-suited system for our country.

The president endorsed pursuing a "non-confrontational foreign policy" based on equality and dignity. He added past policies of the country to "completely align with one bloc" did not serve the interests of the country.

Courtesy: Dawn

Govt tries 'glass half full' approach as economic crises abound

The country's economic managers continued to give assurances on Thursday that Pakistan was not heading to default, the rupee has stabilised — even as it fell 0.83 per cent — and the country has enough petrol for over a month.

In his press conference alongside Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif called for a complete end to 'executive allowance' recently given to top government employees and other similar lavish lifestyles on public expense, whereas the prime minister in a cabinet meeting expressed concern over the local currency's record depreciation against the dollar.

Separately, Energy Minister Khurram Dastgir asserted that the country's petroleum product reserves were at a "record level".

Conceding that ongoing policy measures by the government coupled with external factors would push a lot of middle-class people below the poverty line, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Thursday called for a complete end to 'executive allowance' recently given to top government employees and other similar lavish lifestyles on public expense.

"The permanent government, I mean the bureaucracy and others, would have to jointly share the burden to ensure that it is felt by the common man that they are not paying the price alone but shared by the entire nation," Mr Asif told reporters.

He attributed the rupee's downfall which has plunged to 227 to the dollar from 204.85 on June 30 mainly to US currency's appreciation against other currencies, saying that the dollar had touched a 20-year high.

He said the size of Pakistan's government should be reduced as much as possible in given circumstances but noted that it was too large because a lot of things the private sector should be doing was still in government hands. He also stressed the need for a change in

habit patterns and said business should be restricted to daytime only.

The defence minister, who is part of a cabinet committee on importing coal from Afghanistan and engagement with friendly countries for financial support, said the government had already cleared amendments in laws to facilitate government-to-government transactions and legislation would be completed in a few days.

He said the Middle Eastern friends had shown interest in investment in listed companies while their investment companies and sovereign funds were keen in many other companies which are in the privatisation list for decades.

Responding to a question, Mr Asif said a delegation had returned from Kabul and arrangements would now be made to increase coal imports for power plants.

Speaking on the occasion, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said inflows from friendly countries could not flow so quickly and such transactions took time to materialise.

However, he claimed that the currency market was now under control after the coalition partners announced to complete the remaining constitutional term until June next year. He said he would immediately announce if any of the foreign transactions materialise.

He said imports had been brought under control because of hoarding to petroleum products that had been imported when the government was providing heavy subsidies and as result Pakistan had over 30 days of petrol, about two months for diesel and furnace oil.

On the other hand, consumption had also declined because of higher prices. "We will spend our political capital to protect the country and have taken difficult decisions and there is no regret. If we have to do it again, we will do it," he said.

Mr Ismail said the economy was



on the right track and all indicators, apart from the exchange rate, were positive. He said the SBP had also taken steps to discourage imports. Responding to a question, he said the SBP governor would be appointed next week and its board of directors would be notified anytime.

Meanwhile, Energy Minister Khurram Dastgir asserted on Thursday that the PML-N-led coalition government's commitment to stabilise the economy and prevent the effects of an "international energy crisis" from manifesting here was clear as petroleum product reserves were at a "record level".

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad alongside State Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik, Mr Dastgir also drew comparisons between Pakistan and "another country in the region that is facing economic difficulties", apparently referring to Sri Lanka, which has been reeling from economic crises for months and the president had to step down amid widespread protests.

The biggest indication of economic turmoil in the country was that it ran out of petroleum products, he said. "People had to stand in queues for four days to get petrol. But here, we have diesel stocks that will last for two months and those of petrol for 34 days."

Musadik Malik told reporters that imports of petroleum products was witnessing a gradual decline, as the country's petrol consumption had dropped 9pc to 704,000 tonnes in June from around 778,000 tonnes in the same month a year ago. Similarly, there was an 8pc to 9pc decline in the sale of diesel oil, which is used in heavy vehicles and agriculture machinery.

He said his ministry was managing the matters on a daily basis and were not allowing any unnecessary imports. He also emphasised that there was no risk of a shortage of petroleum products amid "record-high" petrol and diesel reserves.

A cabinet meeting presided over by the premier on Thursday claimed that it would bring down unbridled prices of petroleum products in the country by next month.

"All necessary steps are being taken to bring down the dollar rate and by the next month the rupee will stabilise against dollar," Finance Minister Miftah Ismail informed the meeting.

The prime minister who is staying in Lahore for a couple of days, apparently to closely monitor Punjab's chief minister election scheduled to be held chaired the meeting through a video link.

According to Prime Minister Office, Mr Sharif expressed concern over the local currency's record depreciation against the dollar.

The cabinet also took some other important decisions, including the approval of the Multi-Model Air-Road Corridor policy for trade with neighbouring Afghanistan.

It also approved "trade in goods" agreement with Turkiye, which will relax 261 tariff lines for Pakistan in addition to give zero rating on 123 items. Reciprocally Pakistan will give relaxation to Turkiye on 130 tariff lines and sectors like agriculture, chemicals, leather, plastic, rubber, engineering and steel industries. The agreement is expected to boost the bilateral trade to \$5 billion

Courtesy: Dawn

'Lack of tech' keeps Pakistan from making own Covid vaccine

Following a waiver by the World Trade Organisation, which eases intellectual property restrictions on mRNA vaccines, Pakistan looks poised to domestically produce jabs using this advanced technology but due to lack of technical capacity this "golden opportunity" may not materialise.

The waiver provides Pakistan an opportunity to produce jabs using mRNA technology vaccines that use a copy of a molecule called messenger RNA to build immune response as in addition to Covid-19 jabs, this will also pave way for the production of vaccines against other viral diseases.

But there's a major hiccup. Pakistan does not have a biotechnology plant to manufacture the latest type of vaccines, University of Health Sciences (UHS) Vice Chancellor Dr Javed Akram said.

A senior official of the Ministry of National Health Services, on condition of anonymity, said that the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver provided a "golden opportunity for Pakistan". The TRIPS waiver proposal was

tabled by India and South Africa in October 2020. It sought to temporarily waive restrictions on patents and other intellectual property barriers, in a bid to speed up manufacturing and ease access to lifesaving products amid the Covid pandemic.

The official said the NIH was among 15 companies from as many states, which were being trained to produce the mRNA vaccines at Afrigen Biologics, a South African firm at the core of the hub, and added that maximum efforts were being utilised to avail this chance. "We have sent a three-member team to the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) of South Korea for the training," the official confirmed.

The NIH official disclosed that the institute had a number of machines being used for the production of vaccines to combat rabies, measles and cholera. "As many as six studies have been conducted at NIH and now we have been considering manufacturing vaccines through a public-private partnership," he said, adding, "A policy will have to be approved first."

Dr Akram, who is also member of the Scientific Task Force on Covid-



19, said that currently Pfizer and Moderna jabs were the only mRNA vaccines used in Pakistan. He expressed concerns about Pakistan's ability to take advantage of the waiver, saying that Islamabad does not have a single biotech plant used to produce such vaccines. He advocated for the involvement of the private sector in the production of advanced jabs. According to the vice chancellor, steps taken to increase the presence of the private companies in the pharma sector were "discouraged" in the past for lack of "favourable policies and tax breaks".

"I had contacted Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) and they made a consortium to build a biotechnology plant. Even funds were raised by the association, but the government could not give [us] assurance for favourable policies, including tax holiday," he said, adding that then CJP Nisar had

summoned him to brief the court on the issue. The issue is still pending in court, he added.

Dr Akram suggested that Pakistan should capitalise on the opportunity by involving the private sector as it was not the job of the government to establish a biotechnology plant investing billions of rupees."

Health Services Academy Vice Chancellor Dr Shahzad Ali Khan, while talking to Dawn, said: "It is the most advanced technology in which artificially genetic material is produced and injected into the human body to reduce chances of infection.

He added, "The mRNA vaccines are beneficial for a large number of diseases and I am hopeful that in future HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) will also be controlled through these jabs."

Courtesy: Dawn

Govt reconstitutes anti-rape special committee

The federal government dissolved the anti-rape special committee formed by the previous government of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) and notified a 26-member special committee comprising lawmakers, legal experts, bureaucrats, lawyers and medical experts.

As per the notification, "in pursuance of sub-section (1) of Section 15 of the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021, the Ministry of Law and Justice is pleased to appoint a Special Committee."

The members will serve pro bono or on an honorary basis, according to the notification.

Previously, the 40-member special committee notified by the PTI government in December last year was headed by the then Parliamentary Secretary for Law, Barrister Maleeka

Ali Bukhari, as its chairperson.

According to the new notification, former Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq will chair the committee, which will also include Mehnaz Akbar Aziz, chief secretaries of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Sindh, representatives of the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra), Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra), and the law ministry, ex-prosecutor general Punjab Ehti-sham Qadir, ex additional inspectors general Kamaluddin Tipu, Taimoor Ali Khan, advocate Ismat Mehdi, Khalid Parveen, Ambreen Qureshi, Ghazala Yasmeen, Nida Ali and Sharafat Ali, development consultant Valerie Khan, Mohammad Ali Nekokara, Zainab Mustafa, anchor Maria Memon, Police surgeon Sumayya Syed and forensic expert Ayesha Sarwar.

The Anti-Rape Act 2021, recently passed by parliament, seeks to establish special courts and use modern devices during the investigation and trial of rape cases. The special committee can also issue appropriate directives from time to time to Nadra to prepare a register of sex offenders, the details of which will only be provided to a court of law or a law enforcement agency.

Under the law, special courts have been established throughout the country in consultation with the chief justice of Pakistan and may appoint any person as judge of the special court who is or has been a session judge or additional sessions judge, or an advocate for a period of not less than 10 years and is not more than 70 years of age at the time of appointment.

The special court's judge has the same powers and jurisdiction as the



sessions court and will be appointed for a period of three years, but could be transferred to another special court within the same province.

Anti-rape crisis cells were established throughout the country. The cells are headed by the commissioner or deputy commissioner of the area concerned as deemed fit by the prime minister and will also comprise the medical superintendent of a public hospital and the district police officer or a police officer heading a division.

Courtesy: Dawn

20 Pakistani Singers Singing National Anthem This Year

Pakistan will celebrate 75 years of glory, freedom, and independence on 14th August 2022. On the occasion of the country's Diamond Jubilee, crooners from across the nation have come together to create a national anthem like never before.

These fantastic singers will not only be dressed in national attire representing their culture and backgrounds but will also add the beautiful factor of 'inclusivity'.

"Formed in July 2021 and mandated by the present Government, the Steering Committee has endeavoured to bring to Pakistan a re-recording of the original National



Anthem that reflects updated inclusivity in sound, voice and spirit, while ensuring the sanctity of the original words and composition," the announcement read on the official national anthem 75 Instagram page. Honouring the 75th anniversary of Pakistan's independence, the committee has vowed to enlist vocalists

from diverse regional, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, from all religious faiths and musical genres.

"It is intended that the re-recording in 2022 becomes an occasion to bring together the rich diversity of the nation to express the unique national identity and solidarity of the

پاکستان

people of Pakistan."

The original anthem was composed by Ahmed G. Chagla and written by poet Abdul Hafeez Jalandhari and officially recorded in 1954 with limited resources at the time.

This time around the anthem is ready to feature these amazing vocalists: Ali Hamza, Nirmal Roy, Abid Brohi, Maria Unera, Yashwa Ayub, Sehar Gul Khan.

Many more will join the talented lot in re-creating the anthem this year, including Fakhir Mehmood from Karachi, Fariha Pervez, RJ Jia Nauman from Islamabad, Zohaib Zaman from Azad Kashmir, etc.

Courtesy: W6W360

Power tariff up by Rs3.5 after cabinet approves 'rebasings'

The government announced a three-phased increase in uniform base power tariff, starting with Rs3.50 per unit with effect from July 26 to generate funds to the tune of at least Rs900 billion during the current fiscal year and secure a bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Speaking at a news conference with Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik, Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir Khan said 'tariff rebasing' was approved by the federal cabinet under which the second phase of Rs3.50 per unit will become effective next month and with a one-month gap in September, the remaining 91 paise per unit increase would come into force in October.

He said the tariff rebasing involving Rs7.91 per unit should have come into force in February as the previous rebasing was implemented in February 2021 but the previous government delayed it for political reasons. With this increase of Rs7.91 per unit, the base national average electricity tariff would go up from Rs16.91 per unit to Rs24.82 with financial impact of Rs893bn in FY2022-23, besides over Rs150bn in additional sales tax.

Mr Dastgir said the power tariff would start decreasing in November-December once the rebasing process was complete and the results of the

steps being taken by the current government start yielding results.

Even with this tariff adjustment, the government would provide relief to about 45pc of the population or 13 million domestic connections (out of 27 million domestic consumers) with monthly consumption of up to 200 units per month.

The minister said the federal cabinet also decided to ensure uninterrupted power supply to dedicated industrial feeders round the clock and minimise disruptions on mix (industrial and domestic) feeders so that jobs and economic activities remain unaffected.

Likewise, the cabinet also decided to ensure electricity and gas to five export-oriented sectors on priority and keep their tariffs close to the regional export competitors.

The minister said the coming three months would be difficult for the consumers but the power prices would start decreasing from November after reflection of fuel surcharge in the tariff. The tariff increase was already being recovered from consumers in the shape of monthly fuel cost adjustments and quarterly tariff adjustments which have now been taken into account in the tariff rebasing and hence the FCAs and QTAs would be on the lower side.



In response to a question, Mr Dastgir said a new law was being finalised to facilitate commercial transactions on a government-to-government basis in a transparent manner as some friendly countries were interested in investing in Pakistan but had been hampered by existing privatisation laws.

The law that would also come before the parliament for debate would bring transparency in commercial transactions between governments because there had been delays regarding privatisation.

He said the power generation has significantly improved over the previous month after increase in hydropower generation from Tarbela to 4500mw from 1100mw last month and resumption of production from 1100mw K-2 from nuclear power plant that was on outage last month for refueling.

The minister said the efforts of the current government had started bearing fruits as the circular debt it

had inherited had been brought down by Rs214bn to Rs2.253 trillion as of June 30 from Rs2.467 trillion. He said the amount of unrecovered bills that stood at Rs300bn when the PML-N had left in 2018 had surged to Rs1 trillion over the past four years.

The minister accused the PTI government of benefiting their "blue-eyed investors" by intentionally delaying key power projects, including 1320mw Shanghai Thar Coal, 1200mw Trimmu RLNG, 1,320mw Jamshoro and 720mw Karot hydropower. Responding to a question, he said the entire tunnel of the Neelum Jhelum Hydropower project was being de-watered to confirm the real cause of the closure.

Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik said the power rates would start declining from October-November due to the "effective policies" of the government. "There will be a visible gradual reduction in the electricity price, hopefully in the coming three to four months," he added.

Courtesy: Dawn

Army vows to hunt down terrorists, ensure security

The army's top brass on Monday vowed to hunt down the terrorists involved in recent terrorism incidents and ensure security in the country.

The resolve was expressed at the 249th Corps Commanders Conference held at the General Head-quarters, whose agenda was dominated by a review of the border and internal security.

The meeting was chaired by Army Chief Gen Qamar Bajwa.

Corps Commanders' Conferences have traditionally been a monthly feature at GHQ in which army's operational and training matters are discussed, besides reviewing the security environment. However, this edition of the conference was held after an extraordinary break of over four months.

During this period, two formation commanders' conference, a bigger army forum attended by field formations, were, however, held. The two conferences were held in quick succession with an unusually short interval of less than two months.

The latest corps commanders' conference was held against the backdrop of growing attacks in Balochistan and erstwhile tribal areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"Forum took comprehensive review of the security situation with particular focus on Border and Internal Security," the ISPR said.

Baloch fighters have stepped up attacks against security forces in Balochistan. In one recent such incident, the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) abducted Lt Col Laeeq Baig Mirza in the mountainous Hernai district near Ziarat.

He was later assassinated by the abductors. It was a rare attack on an officer of his rank in the volatile Balochistan province and that too while travelling with his family.

Similarly, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Daesh and other militant organisations targeted security forces. Attacks on polio teams in North Waziristan and Khyber districts were also reported.

The attacks in erstwhile tribal areas of KP happened as security forces' ceasefire with banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan held. It is believed that most of these attacks were undertaken by Gulbahadur group.

Peace talks between the military and TTP are, meanwhile, continuing in Afghanistan.

The army has responded to these attacks by carrying out intelligence-based operations against



the militant groups.

"COAS lauded successful ongoing counter terrorism operations and paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of officers and men to ensure security of borders and safety of masses," the ISPR said.

Gen Bajwa recalled army's relief efforts for mitigating sufferings of the people affected due to floods and heavy rains in the country.

"The forum reaffirmed resolve of armed forces to extend complete support to civil administration in rescue/rehabilitation activities," the ISPR said.

The PML-N government, which took office in April, has been hit by economic crisis and floods that have wreaked havoc in various parts of the country.

Courtesy: Dawn

UAE, Qatar vow to enhance bilateral ties with Pakistan

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday spoke to the leadership of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar, and called for enhancing political and economic ties with both states.

According to the Prime Minister Office (PMO), the prime minister telephoned Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the president of the UAE, and conveyed warm greetings to him on the occasion of Eidul Azha. The PM also extended best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of the UAE.

Reaffirming the fraternal ties between Pakistan and the UAE, the two leaders reiterated their mutual commitment to further expand and diversify special bilateral relations.

The president of the UAE reciprocated the PM's greetings and extended best wishes to the people of Pakistan on Eid.

PM Sharif also extended an invitation to the Emirati president to visit Pakistan, which Sheikh Mohamed accepted.

The UAE is Pakistan's largest trading partner in the Middle East and a major source of investments.

Later, Prime Minister Sharif called Sheikh Tamin Bin Hamad Al Thani, the emir of Qatar, and wished him on Eidul Azha. The PM also

conveyed his best wishes to the people of Qatar.

The PMO stated that the Qatari emir reciprocated the greetings and extended best wishes to the people of Pakistan.

Both the leaders expressed satisfaction over the "excellent" state of bilateral relations and resolved to carry forward the robust political and economic cooperation that existed between the two countries. They also agreed to maintain close contact and work together on all issues of common interest.

Prime Minister Sharif also prayed for retirement of the country's debts, which were said to be the mother of all economic crises confronting the nation.

According to the PMO, the prime minister felicitated pilgrims on the occasion of Haj, and prayed for the Muslim world and Pakistan.

In his message, Mr Sharif also appealed to the pilgrims to offer special prayers for humanity and seek forgiveness from miseries. He also prayed for the freedom of Palestine and India-held Kashmir and safety of their oppressed people.

The PM also urged the nation to offer special prayers for martyrs. Also PM Shehbaz appointed two economists from the ruling



Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) as his coordinators for economy and energy, and industries and trade.

According to two notifications from the Prime Minister Office that were released to the media, Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan has been appointed PM's Coordinator on Industry and Trade, while Bilal Azhar Kiani is the new Coordinator on Economy and Energy. Both of them will work on an honorary basis.

Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan is businessman and economist. He is the son of PML-N leader Rana Afzal Khan, who had served as Minister of State for Finance and Economic Affairs in Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's cabinet from December 2017 to May 2018.

According to his details available on his Facebook page, Bilal Azhar Kiyani is an assistant secretary general of the PML-N and a member of the party's Economic Advisory Council. He has also served as a consultant to the office of the federal minister for finance.

Courtesy: Dawn

Govt to explore solar options amid high energy costs, zero LNG

With high energy shortages and its record prices, Pakistan could not get even a single bid for 10 cargoes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) for end-July to end- September, compelling the government to announce 'gas rationing' and maximise solar power production of 7,000-10,000 megawatts before the next summer.

Federal Power Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan and Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik on Thursday held separate news conferences to blame the previous PTI government for allegedly leaving the country in a mess.

Mr Dastgir said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would announce a detailed solar energy policy on Aug 1 under which a one-kilowatt solar set-up would be installed in the first phase for 2,000MW in small feeders of residential areas which would then be upgraded to 3kW for producing 7,000-10,000MW before the next summer.

He said this was not only a solution for high energy costs, but also a means for energy security. The government would facilitate these 1kw to 3kw solar systems for residential consumers and its cost would be adjusted in installments against monthly electricity bills. The prime minister had been given an initial briefing on the solar policy.

Also, the policy would initially enable setting up of seven solar plants at the existing sites of thermal power plants for which land and transmission lines were already in place. Contracts would be given to private entities through open competitive bidding on the basis of lowest rates. Likewise, government buildings would be shifted to solar power on the pattern of the Parliament House that was saving millions every month.

Similarly, the tubewells across the country would be converted to solar power, beginning from Balochistan.

Dr Musadik Malik in his separate presser said LNG was not available anywhere and repeated tenders for it were receiving no response because there was no molecule in the market. He said the previous government did not secure LNG when it was getting offers at \$4 per million British thermal unit (mmBtu) at a total cargo cost of \$12.5 million.



He said the incumbent government was doing its best even at bilateral levels to secure LNG at whatever cost for a year or so, but still had nothing to report except all suppliers wondering why the government did not sign a contract last year when Europe was securing deals and Pakistan was also receiving offers.

The state minister said gas rationing was being explored because the SNGPL that is supplying to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab had only 670 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) of gas, while the demand of residential consumers alone stood at 1,170mmcf and there was no plan with the ministry, the regulator or gas companies as to how to meet the demand.

Mr Malik said the government had fulfilled major commitments the previous regime made with the IMF, and hoped that in the coming days the impact of petroleum products price reduction globally would be passed on to consumers for which due consultations with Finance Minister Miftah Ismail were required.

Meanwhile, there was not a single bid for 10 cargoes Pakistan was seeking for the last week of July to end September, as European customers suck spot market quantities to make up for Russian supply disruption.

The state-run Pakistan LNG Limited (PLL) had last week floated tenders for 10 cargoes – two for last weeks of July, five for August and three for the first three weeks of September. But not a single bidder responded.

Earlier, three separate attempts by PLL to get LNG cargoes in July remained futile. The suppliers in the spot market besides producers in the Middle East had been influenced by the US government to ensure maximum LNG supplies to the European countries that were ready to lift the commodity at any price to meet their energy shortages caused by supply disruptions from Russia.

The re-gasified LNG prices in Pakistan, despite a large majority of cargos coming from cheaper long-term contracts, have already gone up by 40pc to \$22-24 per MMBTU in recent months owing to a string of spot cargos procured by the coalition government in its first month in office to meet energy shortages.

Coupled with a surge in coal and oil prices, these LNG rates have amplified electricity fuel costs by over 100pc as evident from the Rs8 to 10 per unit additional monthly adjustments approved for ex-Wapda distribution companies and K-Electric.

Courtesy:Dawn

Patron:
Ms. Seema Mughal
Vice Chancellor
Editor:
Dr. Sabir Ahmed
Assistant Professor
Graphics & Layout:
Shazia Anwar

Greenwichians interested
in contributions!
Shoot an email to the editor,
including your name,
roll number and your work at
drsabir@greenwich.edu.pk

Greenwich University
Pakistan - Mauritius
Greenwich University, DK-10, 38th Street, Darakshan, Phase VI,
Defence Housing Authority, Karachi-75500, Pakistan
UAN: (021)111-202-303; Tel: (021) 35840397-98; Fax: (021)35851910
Email: gu@greenwich.edu.pk ; URL: www.greenwich.edu.pk