

Positive Post



Greenwich University

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

September in History

September 30, 1947: *Pakistan becomes member of United Nations (UN) by a unanimous vote of the Security Council.*

September 11, 1948: *Founding father of nation Quaid-e-Azam dies in Karachi due to stroke.*

September 14, 1948: *Khwaja Nazimuddin becomes Governor General of Pakistan.*

September 6, 1950: *General Mohammad Ayub Khan, the first Pakistani, is appointed C-in-C of Pakistan Army.*

September 12, 1956: *Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy assumes office of appointed Prime Minister.*

September 16 1959: *Government establishes Islamic Research Institute.*

September 9, 1960: *Pakistan achieved its first Gold Medal in Olympics, defeating India in hockey by 1-0 at Rome.*

September 17, 1964: *Fatima Jinnah filed her paper as candidate for the Presidential election.*

September 23, 1990: *Sandak project signed between Pakistan and China at Beijing.*

September 16, 2001: *US Secretary of State Powell told that Pakistan's President Musharraf had agreed to support the U.S. anti-terrorist campaign.*

September 9, 2008: *Asif Zardari takes oath as President of Pakistan.*

7 September, 2010: *American actress Angelina Jolie visits flood-hit areas of the country as the UN launches a renewed appeal for aid.*

September 9, 2013: *Mamnoon Hussain is sworn in as the 12th President of Pakistan.*

September 4, 2018: *Pakistani presidential election were held.*

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.

Indian imports only after consulting stakeholders, says Miftah

Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said on Wednesday the government would take a decision on allowing imports from India in the aftermath of floods after looking at supplies and taking coalition partners and stakeholders on board.

Separately, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) exempted relief goods imports from duties and taxes to help flood victims, many of whom have been displaced and are sweltering in the summer heat with sporadic food aid and little access to water.

“More than one international agency has approached the government to allow them to bring food items from India through the land border [of Wagah],” Mr Ismail tweeted on Wednesday. “The government will take the decision to allow imports or not based on supply shortage position, after consulting its coalition partners and key stakeholders.”

The coalition government is currently looking into all options, including allowing vegetable imports from India, to alleviate the suffering of the millions of people affected by the floods.

Pakistan has already allowed the trade of pharmaceutical products and surgical instruments with India. Trade ties between Pakistan and India have largely been frozen since the latter revoked held Kashmir’s special consti-

tutional status in August 2019. In November last year, the PTI government allowed the import and transportation of 50,000 tonnes of wheat and life-saving medicines from India to Afghanistan through the Wagah border on humanitarian grounds.

On Monday, Mr Ismail told a TV channel that “we need to consider getting some vegetables over the land border”.

“We have to do it because of the kind of prices and shortages we are experiencing... Inflation has broken people’s backs,” he said.

The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) has criticised the government for trying to resume trade with India on the pretext of floods, with party leader Fawad Chaudhry wondering how the government could start trade with India ignoring the atrocities on the people of occupied Kashmir.

‘No decision on Indian imports’
On Wednesday, Commerce Minister Naveed Qamar accused the PTI of doing politics over the government’s intention to import tomatoes and onions from neighbouring countries.

“It’s time to support and work in coordination to alleviate the flood impact,” Mr Qamar told reporters in a presser in Islamabad, alongside Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman and Minister of State



for Law and Justice Shahadat Awan.

The prices of essential food items had shot up due to supply chain disruptions, he said, insisting that it was difficult for citizens to purchase expensive food items.

“We politicians can afford to buy at higher rates,” he said, advising PTI leaders to support government initiatives for extending relief to flood-hit people, especially in Sindh and Balochistan.

Earlier, during a meeting of the Senate’s Standing Committee on Commerce, Mr Qamar clarified that for now the government had decided to import onions and tomatoes from Iran and Afghanistan. He was replying to Senator Palwasha Khan, who had asked whether the government was considering importing the staples from India.

“No decision has been taken yet about importing onions and tomatoes from India,” he stressed. “The decision on imports from India will be taken after consultation with all stakeholders. No permission has been granted yet.”

However, the commerce minister informed the committee that the government would facilitate private companies in importing these items from Iran and Afghanistan. Currently, importers are buying tomatoes and onions from Afghanistan. He told committee members that floods had badly damaged crops and the country could face food shortages from next month. Standing crops had been damaged while new ones could not be planted because the fields were submerged, he said, noting that vegetable prices had been on the rise as a result.

Meanwhile, the FBR said in a statement the prime minister had ordered urgent relief measures to ensure an uninterrupted supply of relief goods for flood victims.

The duty exemption subject to certification by the National Disaster Management Authority and the relevant provincial disaster management authority will also apply to goods being sent as donations by foreign governments, organisations and individual donors.

Courtesy: Dawn

Russian President Vladimir Putin Expresses Willingness to Supply Gas to Pakistan



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday met Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand where the Russian president expressed willingness to supply gas to Pakistan.

During the meeting, Putin said that pipeline gas supplies to Pakistan were possible and that part of the necessary infrastructure was already in place, Reuters quoted Russian state-owned news agency RIA as saying.

Courtesy: Economy.pk

‘Easy Dukan’ Enables Retail Business Owners to Digitize their Businesses as Online Stores Within an Hour

For Pakistani retailers, Easy Dukan serves as an online store builder. Easy Dukan is now accessible as an e-commerce website to assist business owners create their stores in under an hour, since many of them struggle to locate dependable and affordable alternatives to establish an online presence.

Anyone with basic technical skills and unrestricted creativity may build a polished, personalized online store. Additionally, they offer a variety of services, including



marketing, customer service, and design and development. Both commission-based and subscription models are possible depending on the type of business.

As a result, price strategies are settled upon with each client separately.

Amnesty asks India to end oppression in held Kashmir

Amnesty International has called on the Indian government to end the repression of rights in India-held Kashmir (IHK), release those arbitrarily de-tained and ensure they are tried promptly and fairly in a regular court.

The AI urged the international community to hold India accountable for human rights violations.

The AI in its report, titled “We are being punished by the law: Three years since abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir”, stated that the Indian government’s efforts to put in place unlawful surveillance measures, arbitrary detention, and restrictions to freedom of expression and simultaneously conceal its actions in occupied Jammu and Kashmir clearly violated international human rights law.

The Indian government was further asked to drop all politically motivated charges against journalists and human rights defenders, arrested for exercising their freedom of expression, and remove the unjust barriers placed on the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir from expressing themselves freely and provide them access to meaningful remedy and justice. It must also take steps to increase representation and participation of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir in decision-making processes, stated the report that was released on Friday.

Also, the international community was urged to hold the Indian government accountable for the human rights violations in occupied Jammu and Kashmir by calling for an immediate and independent investigation into such violations, not the least because it reflects so poorly that a member of the UN Human Rights Council is acting with such impunity.

“For three years now, civil society and media in Jammu and Kashmir have been subjected to a vicious crackdown by the Indian government, which is determined to stifle dissent using draconian laws, policies and unlawful practices in their arsenal,” said Aakar Patel, chair



of the board of Amnesty International India.

“By harassing and intimidating critical voices, authorities are targeting all credible, independent sources of information in and about Jammu and Kashmir. There is a silence achieved on all dissent through heavy handed repression which has spread fear and uncertainty in the region,” he said.

The report mentioned that the Indian government’s claims about ‘legitimate response to terrorism’ could not be considered a proportionate response to the purported threat of terrorism and so constituted human rights violations. It described the measures of relentless interrogations, arbitrary travel bans, administrative detention and repressive media policies and blocking access to human rights commission, preventing journalists and human rights defenders in occupied Jammu and Kashmir from communicating freely about the situation and denying them meaningful access to the region, as infringing on people’s rights to access to information.

The rights body monitored the human rights situation in occupied J&K for several years and found that the Indian government’s clamp-down on dissent in the disputed territory had intensified since August 5, 2019.

This intensification has had the impact of establishing increased control over the disputed region through a system of laws, policies and practices that systematically annihilate critical voices and violate the rights to freedom of expression and opinion of journalists and human rights defenders, the report stated.

Amnesty International spoke to representatives of civil society in occupied Jammu & Kashmir including journalists, lawyers, human rights defenders and a former judge. Amnesty International found unreasonable restrictions placed on freedom of movement and the right to political participation, as well as undue limitations on freedom of expression along with arbitrary arrest and illegal imprisonment of the people. Human rights defenders and journalists are at a higher risk of these violations in Jammu and Kashmir.

The passing of repressive policies such as the ‘2020 Revised Media Policy and 2021 Film Policy’ have been used as attempts to legitimise the censorship of expression and ensured a total control of information coming out of the region by the Indian government, it said.

Multiple news media outlets and human rights organisations consistently face raids and investigations from the National Investigation Agency and the Income Tax Department over politically motivated charges of financial irregularities.

The harassment and intimidation have led to many journalists either losing or leaving their jobs. In addition, the sudden and forced closure of Kashmir Press Club in 2022 by the Indian government further silenced the culture of debate and solidarity amongst the journalists.

The report documented how since August 5, 2019, the Indian authorities had increased the use of travel bans, which are arbitrary executive actions not backed by any court order, warrant or even a written ex-

HBL Raised Staff Service Age from 60 to 65 Years



HBL, the largest and best bank in Pakistan, has announced raising the staff service age from 60 years to 65 years. This first-of-a-kind step underscores the Bank’s commitment to the well-being of its staff, thus ensuring they continue to thrive.

In the current socio-economic environment, this first-of-a-kind step is a game-changer for the financial industry. This ensures that the staff continue to financially support their families in the present global and local economically challenging times. Moreover, it will allow the Bank’s experienced staff members to further utilize their skills and also pass on those skills to the younger generation.

With effect from 01 September 2022, the Bank will retain all its management staff till the age of 65 years.

Commenting on the initiative, Muhammad Aurangzeb, President & CEO - HBL, stated, “The strides that the Bank has made over the last eight decades, would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of its people. HBL, with guidance from the Chairman and the Board of Directors, undertook the game-changing step of raising the service age to improve the quality of life of those we work with and those we serve. This effort underpins our belief in being a ‘Bank with a Soul.’”

Courtesy: www.hbl.com

planation, on journalists and human rights defenders violating their right to freedom of movement. At least six individuals including journalists, human rights activists and academics were stopped from travelling abroad without any reason, it said.

Courtesy: Dawn

PM Shehbaz orders quick repair of infrastructure

While underlining the need for an early restoration of road and railway networks in the country, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday noted that major highways have been repaired in the flood-affected areas, ensuring smooth rescue and relief operations.

The prime minister arrived in Quetta on a day-long visit and later took an aerial view of flood-hit areas in Balochistan and Punjab.

Accompanied by National Highway Authority (NHA) Chairman Khurram Agha, Mr Sharif said the work on a number of highways and roads has been completed, while efforts are under way to restore traffic on the remaining ones on an emergency basis.

The prime minister had already stressed that rehabilitation of the communication infrastructure was the top priority.

Shehbaz visits Bolan Pass to review restoration of highway

Mr Sharif was told that during the last two weeks, damaged roads in all the four provinces and Gilgit- Baltistan have been restored.

The Manshehra-Naran-Chilas N-15 National Highway has been restored, while Karachi-Chaman N-25 highway, where a section from Hub to Khuzdar, was washed away has also been restored for traffic, the prime minister was briefed.

Similarly, the Quetta-Nushki section of Lakpass-Dalbandin N-40 highway, Chakdara-Dir section on Nowshera-Chitral N-45 highway, Rajanpur-Taunsa and D.I. Khan-Pezu sections on Indus Highway, Sibi-Quetta section on Sukkur-Quetta

N-65 highway, Fort Munro section of Qilla Saifullah-Multan N-70 highway, Alpuri-Basham section on Khwazakhela-Besham N-90 highway, Gilgit-Shandur section on Shandur Road N-140 and Shangous section on Strategic Highway S-1 have been restored for traffic.

The Karakorum Highway N-35 was also completely rehabilitated which was earlier closed for traffic from Indus Kohistan to Hunza.

The restoration work was underway on Zhob-D.I. Khan section of D.I. Khan-Kuchlak N-50, Fatahpur-Kalam section at Chakdara-Kalam N-95 highway and Wangu Hills-Banja section on Ratodero-Gwadar M-8 Motorway.

Earlier, the prime minister arrived in Quetta on a day-long visit to review restoration works on major highways in the province.

Upon his arrival, Mr Sharif was received by Balochistan Chief Minister Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo, JUI-F leader Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Senator Kamran Murtaza, and Balochistan Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili.

He visited the Bolan Pass to review restoration work on N-65 highway, which has been cut off for over a month, where he was briefed by the NHA chairman and other officials about efforts to restore roads, railways and bridges in the area.

The prime minister appreciated the district administration, federal authorities and other institutions "for their commitment and devotion" which he said was a "source of inspiration for the people."

"I salute all those who have been involved in relief and rehabilitation efforts," Mr Sharif said, adding that damages to Bibi Nani and Pinjra bridges dis-



rupted traffic from Quetta to Sukkur, leaving about 6000 people stranded on both ends.

The premier appreciated the NHA, law enforcement agencies, Pakistan Army and other authorities who restored the damaged Bibi Nani bridge within eight hours, adding that "they did a great national service".

The primer also announced a relief grant of Rs5 million relief for the labourers working to restore the highway and another Rs1m grant for those working on the restoration of a major pipeline supplying gas to Quetta and other areas.

He also announced Rs3m for labourers who have restored the Bibi Nani bridge. A committee would be set up to dispense the amount on merit, he announced.

He said Balochistan chief minister and chief secretary have been coordinating with the relevant authorities to speed up the rehabilitation work. While referring to the damages caused by floods, he added that the catastrophe has affected all provinces with over 1300 deaths, while economic and infrastructure damages are also enormous.

During the briefing, the NHA chairman said the authority will hire foreign consultants for reconstruction of Pinjra Bridge and the highway.

Courtesy: Dawn

Presents received by PM to go on display

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has decided to put up the gifts he received during his official trips to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia in April this year on display at the Prime Minister's House in a bid to end the misuse of the Toshakhana rules.

A notification issued by the Cabinet Division said: "The premier does not wish to retain any of the gift items presented to him during his visits to Saudi Arabia and UAE dated April 28 to April 30, 2022."

"The prime minister desires that as a policy, all precious gifts should be taken on charge by Toshakhana and consequently be permanently displayed at the PM House. The gifts would be displayed in secure display cabinets, equipped with alarm systems, under the responsibility of the Toshakhana."

The notification stated that in the first phase, five

such cabinets dedicated to each country Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Turkey, and China be prepared to showcase the gifts received from the respective countries.

These cabinets would also feature the presents PM Shehbaz received during his official trips to the UAE and Saudi Arabia. The gifts PM Sharif received included a pair of wristwatches an A. Lange & Sonhe Datograph watch and a Rolex - along with cufflinks, a pen, ring and rosary by the Chopard brand.

Furthermore, the PM directed the concerned authorities to display the gifts to showcase Pakistan's fraternal ties with friendly countries.

Toshakhana rules

Established in 1974, the Toshakhana is a department under the administrative control of the Cabinet Division and houses precious gifts given



to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, and officials by heads of other governments, states, and foreign dignitaries. Valuables in Toshakhana range from bulletproof cars, gold-plated souvenirs, and expensive paintings in addition to watches, ornaments, rugs, and swords.

Under the rules, it is mandatory that gifts of a certain value are deposited in Toshakhana. However, an official is also allowed to keep these gifts provided they pay a certain percentage of the price assessed by the Toshakhana evaluation committee.

Courtesy: Dawn

Govt orders paperwork for oil sector deregulation

Amid record prices, the government has decided in principle to go for deregulation of the oil sector and has asked the Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) to work out its modalities in consultation with oil refineries and marketing companies.

A senior official told Dawn the government had asked Ogra to thrash out terms of reference for oil sector deregulation in order to promote competition and efficiency.

Oil meets 31pc of the country's energy requirements. Despite these lucrative numbers, no refinery has been set up for more than a decade. Similarly, upgrades of the existing refineries have not kept pace with the latest technology.

The move comes at a time when the government and the regulator have been struggling to ensure competition and efficiency in the much smaller segment of petroleum sector liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) even after two decades of deregulation and despite more than half of its supplies based on well-documented domestic production. On Monday, the Ogra "issued directives to the Chief Secretaries and district authorities to ensure that LPG is sold at prices notified by Ogra on Sept 1" at Rs2,013 per 11.8 kg cylinder for producers and Rs2,496 for consumers, an announcement said.

The product price in the market, on the other hand, ranged between Rs2,700 and 3,000 per cylinder and is steadily rising amid an increased demand from donors for flood-affected people and for the usual winter needs.

The Ogra asked district authorities "to initiate action against profiteers under the LPG Production and Distribution Rules 2001, Petroleum Products (Petroleum Levy) Ordinance 1961 and other applicable laws in the best interest of general public", it said, adding that LPG plants and distributors had also been "directed to clearly display the LPG selling price on gate/passes and receipts for convenience of



general public".

An official said that after deregulation of petrol prices, Ogra at best would be able to issue such letters without any punitive action.

The regulator has called a meeting on Sept 7 of all the refineries, marketing companies and marketing associations, including the defunct Oil Companies Advisory Council (OCAC) and a smaller representative, the Oil Marketing Association of Pakistan (OMAP), for a consultative session.

Officials said all stakeholders had been asked to come up with their presentations on 'Deregulation of Oil Sector', including refining and marketing segments, on questions of benefits and repercussions. They said deregulation would mean opening up oil pricing and retail distribution to private companies.

These organisations would be free to set their own prices on competitive basis instead of looking for distribution margins fixed by the government.

Senior officials who have handled the business of retail oil marketing suggest that deregulation would get rid of the uniform ex-depot price set by the government across the country through the inland freight equalisation margin.

Retail prices may get Rs2-3 per litre cheaper in Karachi, Multan and Rawalpindi as these cities have a refining base, but get higher by Rs6-8 per litre in rural and far-flung areas.

While the government and the regulator struggle to protect urban consumers through surveillance and

monitoring given the existing experience of their outreach and effectiveness, the rural consumers would be mostly at the mercy of retailers who start suffering in the shape of black-marketing ahead of increasing price trend and widespread adulteration.

The sources said that a few senior politicians in the government were pushing for deregulation on the premise that it would encourage competition and the consumer would be free to go for the best price and quality.

They have, however, not studied the market dynamics where nobody, even in the petroleum division or at Ogra, could certify which company or retail pump even in Islamabad was offering the best products.

"In a market where even product measurement is questionable, the government and the regulator must first create enabling environment with ranking, certification and measurement standards before leaving the innocent consumer at the mercy of private sharks," said a senior official.

The private companies are generally in favour of deregulation and attribute the lack of market development and poor investment prospects in the refining sector to a regulated environment and nominal profit margins.

The government has been studying petrol and diesel pricing for complete deregulation, including commissions of the OMCs and dealers on the pattern of HOBC.

The government has agreed in

principle with the oil industry that IFEM mechanism should also be deregulated. It is currently used to keep prices uniform throughout the country.

This means the prices would significantly vary from one city to another and from one oil company to another. The consumer close to ports and refineries would be at an advantage while those away from ports and oil installations would have to pay more.

The difference could vary between Re1 and Rs5 per litre depending on the actual transportation cost.

Courtesy: Dawn

KP Assembly Declared as Pakistan's Best Performing Provincial Assembly



The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly has performed the best among the others in terms of the number of sessions, working hours, and the number of laws passed, according to a comparison study undertaken by the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT).

Despite meeting for only 60 days, the KP Assembly has worked more days than any other provincial assembly in the fourth parliamentary year. In contrast, the Balochistan Assembly met for 53 days this year, while the provincial assemblies of Punjab and Sindh only had 42 and 41 sittings, respectively.

Courtesy: blogpakistan.pk

\$450m package to maintain Pakistan's F-16s

The US government has notified Congress of a proposed foreign military sale of \$450 million to Pakistan to sustain the Pakistan Air Force's F-16 programme, a US State Department spokesperson told.

Another official statement said the US Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) delivered the required certification of this possible sale to Congress.

The agency clarified that "the proposed sale does not include any new capabilities, weapons, or munitions".

The agency also informed Congress that "the proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region" and "there will be no adverse impact on US defence readiness as a result of this proposed sale".

"Pakistan's F-16 programme is an important part of the broader US-Pakistan bilateral relationship. The proposed sale will sustain Pakistan's capability to meet current and future counterterrorism threats by maintaining its F-16 fleet," the spokesperson told.

Asked how Washington would react to India's criticism of the proposed sale, the official said: "These relationships (with Pakistan & India) stand on their own and are not a zero-sum proposition."

A DSCA press release said the government of Pakistan had requested to consolidate prior F-16 sustainment and support cases to support the Pakistan Air Force F-16 fleet by reducing duplicate case activities and adding additional continued support elements.

The follow-on support for Pakistan's F-16 fleet would include participation in F-16 Aircraft Structural Integrity Programme; Electronic Combat International Security Assistance Programme; International Engine Management Programme; and Engine Component Improvement Programme, and other technical coordination groups.

The support would also include aircraft and engine hardware and software modifications and support; aircraft and engine spare repair/return parts; accessories and support equipment; classified and unclassified software and software support; publications, manuals, and technical documentation; precision measurement, calibration, lab equipment, and technical support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of aircraft maintenance and programme support.

A notification sent to Congress said, "This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by allowing Pakistan to retain interoperability with US and partner forces in ongoing counterterrorism efforts and in preparation for future contingency operations.

"The proposed sale will continue the sustainment of Pakistan's F-16 fleet, which greatly improves Pakistan's ability to support counterterrorism operations through its robust air-to-ground capability. Pakistan will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces."

The principal contractor for this sale will be Lockheed Martin Corporation and implementing this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional US government or contractor



representatives to Pakistan, the DSCA said.

Mr Markey, however, acknowledged that "at another level" it was a significant decision because the Biden administration "has been so dismissive of Pakistan that it does suggest an opening of relations".

By agreeing to go ahead with this sale, the administration "did indicate, may be narrow, willingness to work with Pakistan on issues of common interest".

He suggested that the Biden administration was still frustrated with Pakistan's policies towards Afghanistan but "it is recognising that it is better to try to find narrow avenues of cooperation" with Islamabad than to stay aloof.

He pointed out that recently Washington sent two key delegations to Islamabad, indicating a desire to work with Pakistan.

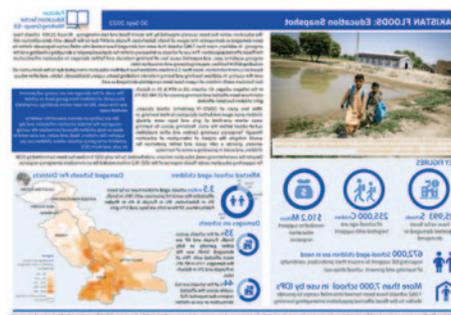
The Biden administration, he said, was "not going as far as the Pakistan military would have liked". The Pakistani military, he said, had made a broader request and what was granted would not upgrade or improve the capacity of the F-16s, as it's basically "a maintenance package".

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan Floods: Education Snapshot - 30 September 2022

The education sector has been severely impacted by the recent flood and rain emergency. At least 25,993 schools have been damaged or destroyed in the region of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and KP due to the floods with data collection still ongoing. In addition, more than 7,062 schools that were not damaged have turned into relief camps to provide shelter to the flood affected population. The use of schools as temporary shelter for displaced people is disrupting schooling and the ongoing academic year, and expected cause loss of learning materials and further damages to education infrastructure including WASH facilities, requiring cleaning and renovation later.

Based on current estimation, more than 3.5 millions children have had their education interrupted due to the destruction all over the



country. In addition, teaching and learning materials including books, copies, blackboards, tables, and other education furniture worth millions of rupees have been completely destroyed as well.

In the refugee villages, 61 schools (26 in KPK & 35 in Balochistan) have been affected and learning process of 27,148 (58.7% girls)

children has been affected.

After two years of COVID-19 pandemic school closures, children once again risk further disruption to their learning, in areas where one-third of girls and boys were already out-of-school before the crisis. Restoring access to learning through Temporary Learning Centers and other modalities would mitigate the impact of interruption of education services, provide a safe space and better protection for children, and assist in providing a sense of normalcy.

Despite the overwhelming need, education remains underfunded. So far only USD 5 million has been committed by ECW for supporting education sector needs response of the USD 10.2 million needed for an immediate emergency response.

Courtesy: ReliefWeb

US, Pakistan re-engage to cope with floods, rebuild ties

Pakistan and the United States will hold ministerial-level talks in Washington on Monday (today), indicating willingness on part of both sides to resume institutionalised engagement after a long absence.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari reached Washington on Sunday on a three-day visit during which he will hold in person talks with Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

He will also have a separate meeting with State Department's Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs Dilawar Syed, reflecting a mutual desire to deepen trade ties between the two old allies. He is also meeting key Congressional leaders on the Hill.

Officially, both sides have only forwarded a generic description of the talks, saying meetings would "highlight flood relief efforts in Pakistan and commemorate 75 years of bilateral relations".

At an earlier briefing to Dawn, State Department's counselor Derek Chollet acknowledged that the United States wanted to maintain friendly ties with Pakistan and was even ready to compete with China to do so.

But he also said that in doing so, the Biden administration does not want Islamabad to choose between Beijing and Washington, rather it wants countries "to be able to have a choice". The United States, he said, was not "afraid of competing with China, but we would like to have a fair competition".

This clearly illustrates a sketch of the relationship

Washington wants with Islamabad, a close ally, which can maintain its special relationship with China without allowing it to affect its ties with the United States.

But the issue that's going to dominate the talks is the one that was not even there when these talks were planned: this year's unprecedented floods that have brought Pakistan close to an economic meltdown.

Pakistan is seeking, but not getting, international assistance that matches the scale of the disaster that befell the country this summer.

Michael Kugelman, Director of South Asia Institute at Washington's Wilson Centre, said in a tweet on Sunday that during a recent trip to Pakistan, "the main message I heard on the floods is that the only hope is international aid, which has been slow to come".

But the "biggest obstacle to addressing the crisis may not be the lack of international aid, but political polarisation at home," he wrote.

Madiha Afzal, a Pakistan scholar at Brookings, another Washington think tank, also highlighted this issue in her tweet. "Pakistan's political polarisation is so hardened now that nothing seems to be able to reduce it not its flooding catastrophe, nor anything else," she wrote. "Doesn't bode well."

Some experts warn that this could also impact efforts to rebuild US-Pakistan ties as scholars and policy makers in Washington also worry about the stability of the current political setup in Islamabad.



And as the two scholars indicated, this was already affecting Islamabad's efforts to raise funds for the relief and rehabilitation of flood victims.

In his speeches and statements at the UN General Assembly this week, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif not only appealed to the international community to help Pakistan but also assured them that the funds they send would be used for the victims only. Apparently, he did so to assure the donors that the aid would not be misappropriated, as some of them fear.

Experts say that in their talks in Washington, Pakistan would not only seek, and probably get, more assistance but would also ask for US support to its efforts to reschedule its debt. In his engagements at the UN, the prime minister minced no words in reminding the donors that "all hell may break loose" if Pakistan does not get debt relief.

Mr Chollet, when asked if the United States would help Pakistan in getting its debt rescheduled, said Washington was aware of the situation but he did "not want to get ahead of an official US decision" on this issue.

Courtesy: Dawn

Naseem Shah 'humbled' to auction 'memorable sixes' bat to help flood victims

Pakistan pacer Naseem Shah, who hit the winning sixes against Afghanistan in an Asia Cup 2022 thriller match, said Thursday that he is "humbled" to auction the six-hitting bat to raise funds for flood victims.

The young cricketer had decided right after the match to put the bat on auction to use the money generated to help the flood affectees of Pakistan.

Taking to Twitter, Naseem said he is giving the bat to former Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi's welfare organisation, Shahid Afridi [Foundation, which is running a countrywide flood relief campaign.

"This bat is very precious for me but keeping in view] the situation in the wake of floods in



Pakistan, I am giving it to Shahid Afridi Foundation because Lala always helps the

destitute and deserving people whenever there is a hard time," he said.

He said that he requested Afridi to help the people in his hometown Lower Dir and Swat like he always does to help the poor. He also expressed support for the senior cricketer and his foundation and encouraged people to do the same.

The star player borrowed fellow pacer Mohammad Hasnain's bat during the match against Afghanistan.

Naseem's two sixes assisted Pakistan to victory while cementing the departure of India and Afghanistan from the Asian event.

Courtesy: gawww.eotv

England cricket team arrives in Pakistan after 17 years for seven T20Is

Led by Jos Buttler, England's cricket squad arrived here for their first tour of Pakistan in 17 years a lengthy absence brought about by security fears. The cricketers were immediately escorted off the upper deck of their Emirates flight from Dubai into bulletproof buses to take them to the team hotel. The team have been granted VVIP status throughout their three-week tour, comprising seven T20Is the first four in Karachi, the last three in Lahore. Addressing a press conference yesterday, Buttler said he hoped his injury-hit Twenty20 side embrace the challenge of facing a strong Pakistan team on their first tour after so many years.

England last played in Pakistan in 2005 and were due to visit last year until pulling out at short notice after New Zealand also cancelled a tour citing safety concerns. The move infuriated the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), desperate to rehabilitate its security reputation, who called it "disrespectful". Following a deadly 2009 attack by Islamist militants on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore, Pakistan were forced to play international matches at neutral venues such as the UAE, where they hosted England for series in 2012 and 2015. Over the past five years, international cricket has gradually returned to Pakistan and earlier this year Australia toured successfully for the first time in nearly a quarter of a century.

The visitors will train for the first time on Friday night at the National Stadium, ahead of the first T20I on Tuesday. Exactly half of England's 20-man squad have played cricket in Pakistan before thanks to the Pakistan Super



League (PSL) Dawid Malan, now a senior player in the T20I set-up, was among the first, flying into Lahore for the 2017 final. He said seven of his squad David Willey, Phil Salt, Will Jacks, Liam Dawson, Harry Brook, Luke Wood and Ben Duckett had featured in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) this year and would know local conditions. "Plenty of our players featured in the PSL and shared the positive experiences of being here and about how much the public love the game," said Buttler.

"We look forward to the tough challenge and to be battle-hardened for the World Cup after this series," said Buttler, who will miss the first few games to recover fully from a calf injury. Two of England's World Cup squad members Liam Livingstone and Chris Jordan are also missing this series as they recover from ankle and finger injuries respectively, while Test skipper Ben Stokes was given a rest. Buttler said he hoped the injuries would give an opportunity to other players hungry to show their talent. "Obviously the main aim for everyone is to turn up for Australia fully ready," said Buttler of the event to be held from October 16 to November 13. "We know

Pakistan are a very great side. We look forward to challenge ourselves against them and I expect to see some great cricket."

The England skipper also hoped his side would perform well to honour Queen Elizabeth II, who died last week. "Obviously, with

her majesty the queen passing, we were deeply saddened by that. We have seen the reactions over in England. "We hope to honour her in our own way as a T20 team and play in a fashion to do that." Buttler announced a donation understood to be a five-figure pound-sterling sum from the players to the Disasters Emergency Committee's appeal, which will be matched by the ECB, amid the floods that have devastated parts of Pakistan and left millions of people in need of urgent help.

"It won't be enough, but any small part we can play is important," he said. The first four matches will be in Karachi on September 20, 22, 23 and 25, and the next three in Lahore on September 28, 30 and October 2.

Courtesy: The Nation

PAK vs ENG 5th T20 Highlights: Pakistan win by 5 runs, lead series 3-2



Pakistan vs England 5th T20 Match Highlights: Pakistan beat England by five runs in the fifth T20I in Lahore on Wednesday. Debutant Aamer Jamal was handed the responsibility to defend 15 in the last over and he did so against the dangerous

Moeen Ali. As a result, the hosts have taken a 3-2 lead in the seven match series. Earlier, it was England who won the toss and chose to field in the fifth Twenty20 international against Pakistan on Wednesday.

Courtesy: Sports news

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