

Positive POST



Greenwich University

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



Pakistan's standing in the global rankings

Overview

Pakistan observed a slight improvement in the overall international rankings in 2021 covering socio-economic and political outcomes of the country. Several elements complemented the prospects including successful democratic transition, efficient counter-terrorism measures leading to enhanced peace and security, and foreign direct investment inflows under CPEC, among others. Albeit, decoupling economic growth from human development suggests that the country needs to enhance its scores in health, education and standard of living by ensuring political will, equitable financing and efficient governance to ensure parallel growth for marginalized segments as well. Civil and political liberties must grow hand in hand to ensure a conducive environment for democratic dialogue and accountability which ultimately supports its nation building process.

DEMOCRACY INDEX

Pakistan was placed at the 104th spot among 167 states on the global Democracy Index 2021, compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

Index from 0 (authoritarian regime) to 10 (full democracy)

Compiled based on indicators covering: Electoral process and pluralism, Civil liberties, Functioning of government, Political participation, and Political culture.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Pakistan ranked 161 out of 192 countries in the Human Development Index scoring 2022 0.562 out of 1.000 in 2018 compared to 0.560 out of 1.000 in 2017.

Index from 0 (low development) to 1 (very high development)

Compiled based on indicators covering: life expectancy, education, and per capita income

PRESS FREEDOM INDEX

Pakistan's press freedom rank dropped to 145 out of 180 countries in the Press Freedom Index, An annual ranking of countries published by Reporters Without Borders (RWB), an international non-governmental organization dedicated to safeguard the right to freedom of information.

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

TERRORISM INDEX

Terrorism Index in Pakistan decreased to 7.83 in 2021 from 7.92 in 2020.

Index from 0 (lowest impact) to 10 (highest impact)

Compiled based on indicators covering : Total number of terrorist incidents in a given year, total number of fatalities caused by terrorism in a given year, total number of injuries caused by terrorism in a given year and the approximate level of total property damage from terrorist incidents in a given year.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX

In 2021, index of economic freedom for Pakistan was 51.7 score.

Though Pakistan index of economic freedom fluctuated substantially in recent years, it tended to decrease through 2002 - 2021 period ending at 51.7 score in 2021.

Compiled based on indicators covering: Market openness, Regulatory efficiency, Government size and the rule of law.

November in History

November 01, 1857: The British control most present-day Pakistan region and incorporate it as part of the British Indian Empire.

November 30, 1967: Pakistan Peoples Party founded by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in Lahore.

November 1984: The Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (LCHR) established a three-member fact-finding mission.

November 16, 1988: 16 November 1988: New elections held; Benazir Bhutto becomes prime minister

November 6, 1990: Mohammad Nawaz Sharif of the IDA was appointed prime minister.

November 7, 1990: Prime Minister Sharif lifted the state-of-emergency on November 7, 1990.

November 13, 1993: Farroq Ahmad Leghari was elected president by the parliament.

November 14, 1993: Farroq Ahmad Leghari was inaugurated as president

November 23, 2002: Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali sworn in as Prime Minister.

November 08, 2007: General Pervez Musharraf stepping down from the military, he was sworn in for a second presidential term.

November 16, 2007: After completion of 5 years, National Assembly dissolved, Caretaker government of Muhammad Mian Soomro took oath.

November 25, 2007: Nawaz Sharif returned Pakistan after 7 years of forced exile.

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.

PM Kakar lands in Saudi Arabia to attend OIC summit

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar reached Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh to represent Pakistan at the emergency meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on the Gaza situation.

According to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Deputy Governor of Riyadh Prince Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz received the prime minister on his arrival at the King Khalid International Airport.

During his three-day official visit, the prime minister will participate in the OIC's emergency summit. Saudi Arabia has convened the extraordinary OIC summit to discuss the Gaza situation.

Earlier, Pakistan welcomed the extraordinary OIC summit being held in Riyadh on Saturday.

Later, caretaker Prime Minister Kakar met Palestine's President Mahmoud Abbas on the sidelines of the OIC summit.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baluch told a weekly press briefing that the OIC summit has been convened in response to the unprecedented Israeli attacks on Gaza and its environs, which have posed a grave threat to civilian population and precipitated a humanitarian crisis.

Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani will participate in the CFM, she said, adding Pakistan

will continue to play its role to advance international consensus and galvanise efforts for an urgent end to Israeli aggression and provision of relief assistance to the people of Gaza.

She said Pakistan was deeply concerned about the heinous crimes being committed against the Palestinian people as Israeli forces continue with their campaign of terror and brutality in Gaza.

She regretted that for over a month, the people of Gaza have been subjected to the worst forms of collective punishment. Israeli forces are committing crimes against humanity with impunity as they indiscriminately massacre defenceless civilians and deliberately deprive them of food, water, shelter and medical care.

The spokesperson said the use of phosphorus bombs and threats of nuclear holocaust are being made against the people under occupation while being forcibly evicted from their land.

"As a tragedy of epic proportions unfolds in Gaza, the UN Security Council must act to fulfil its responsibility to uphold peace and call for an urgent and unconditional ceasefire, lifting of the siege and commencement of rapid and unhindered humanitarian assistance.

Backers of Israel must prevail upon it to abandon its plans for settler colonialism, forced displacement and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian



people. "As an occupying power, Israel must fulfil its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and forthwith end the carnage in Gaza", she said.

Asked to comment on a White House statement confirming that Israel will suspend its barbaric bombing for four hours, she said Pakistan's position was very clear.

"We have called for immediate ceasefire and cessation of hostilities. We believe that tactical pauses in military operations do not provide adequate space for humanitarian assistance to reach. Nor does it end the forced displacement of the people of Gaza. It is critical that civilians must be protected and a ceasefire must be introduced so that the families can safely stay at their homes and humanitarian assistance may reach them as is their right."

Courtesy: Dawn

Govt unveils policy for privatisation of commercial govt enterprises

The caretaker federal government in Pakistan has taken an important step towards fulfilling the criteria set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by issuing the Ownership and Management Policy of Government Institutions for the year 2023.

The newly issued policy will have a comprehensive impact across all government-owned enterprises, with a focus on ensuring that sensitive entities of national security or strategic importance remain under government control. However, the policy also outlines plans for the gradual privatization of commercial government enterprises.

As per the Ministry of Finance's document, certain institutions will undergo restructuring, with forthcoming decisions shaping their future. Moreover, the policy dictates a shift towards future recruitments in government institutions, which



will primarily occur on a contractual basis.

Strict selection criteria will be implemented for key roles such as chief financial officers, CEOs, secretaries, and senior management, and job retention or dismissal will be based on performance evaluations. The policy also stipulates a one-month notice period before dismissal due to unsatisfactory performance.

Within six months of the policy's

implementation, categories for government-owned enterprises will be established. Additionally, all such enterprises will be required to develop robust internal audit procedures. To enforce the new policy effectively, a cabinet committee dedicated to government-owned enterprises will be established.

Furthermore, the policy outlines the creation of a central monitoring unit tasked with overseeing institutional performance. This proposed unit will analyze the

business plans of government institutions and provide recommendations. The plan also includes the recruitment of competent and experienced personnel for this monitoring unit.

The Ministry of Finance also revealed plans to compile a database of independent boards of directors for these institutions. Moreover, the policy on government-owned institutions is set to undergo a review every five years, ensuring its alignment with evolving needs and circumstances.

The implementation of this comprehensive policy underscores the government's commitment to bringing structural reforms and enhancing accountability and efficiency within government-owned entities, reflecting a strategic move towards economic stabilization and growth in line with IMF guidelines.

Courtesy: Dawn

OIC, AL members slam Israel, but differ on response

Muslim leaders condemned Israeli forces' "barbaric" actions in Gaza but declined to approve punitive economic and political steps against the country over its ongoing atrocities in Gaza.

The outcome of a joint summit of the Arab League (AL) and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) highlighted regional divisions over how to respond to the Israeli attacks even as fears mount that it could draw in other countries.

The summit took place against a backdrop of widespread anger in the Middle East and beyond over Israel's aerial and ground offensive in Gaza, which has killed more than 11,000 people, mostly civilians and many of them children.

The final declaration of the summit rejected Israeli claims that it is acting in "self-defence" and demanded that the United Nations Security Council adopt "a decisive and binding resolution" to halt Israel's aggression. It also dismissed out of hand any future political resolution to the conflict that would keep Gaza separate from the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who before the conflict was considering establishing formal diplomatic ties with Israel, told the summit he "holds the occupation (Israeli) authorities responsible for the crimes committed against the Palestinian people".

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, on his first trip to Saudi Arabia since the two countries mended ties in March, said Muslim nations should designate the Israeli army a "terrorist organisation" for its conduct in Gaza. Regional divisions

The Arab League and the OIC, a 57-member bloc that includes Iran, were originally meant to meet separately. Arab diplomats told AFP the decision to merge the meetings came after Arab League delegations failed to reach an agreement on a final statement.

Some countries, including Algeria and Lebanon, proposed responding to the devastation in Gaza by threatening to disrupt oil supplies to Israel and its allies as well as severing the economic and diplomatic ties that some Arab League nations have with Israel, the diplomats said.

In a statement issued from Gaza, Hamas called on summit participants to expel Israeli ambassadors, form a legal commission to try Israeli war criminals and create a reconstruction fund for the territory.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said a lack of concrete punitive measures against Israel would render the summit toothless.

"If we do not have real tools for pressure, then any step we take or speech we give will have no meaning," said Mr Assad, who was welcomed back into



the Arab fold this year after an extended rift over his country's civil war.

He said no Middle Eastern country should engage in any "political process" with Israel, including developing economic relations, until a lasting ceasefire is reached.

Turkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said "it is a shame that Western countries, which always talk about human rights and freedoms, remain silent in the face of the ongoing massacres in Palestine".

Crimes against humanity Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, in his statement, strongly condemned the incessant and brutal Israeli aggression and the inhumane blockade of Gaza that has resulted in death, destruction and displacement.

He said the Israeli occupation forces were in clear violation of international humanitarian and human rights law, and their indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force amounted to war crimes and crimes against humanity. He called on the international community to hold Is-

rael accountable for its crimes.

PM Kakar underscored the urgency of bringing an end to Israel's campaign of terror with an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, lifting of the siege of Gaza, and rapid and unhindered humanitarian and relief assistance for the people of Gaza.

He underlined that the root cause of the current situation was the perennial settler colonialism and denial of the right of self-determination to the Palestinian people.

He reaffirmed Pakis-tan's solidarity and support for the Palestinian people and for their right to self-determination.

Mr Raisi's visit to Riyadh made him the first Iranian president to set foot in Saudi Arabia since Mahmoud Ahmadi-nejad attended an OIC meeting in the kingdom in 2012.

Iran backs Hamas as well as Lebanon's Hezbollah and Yemen's Huthi rebels, placing it at the centre of concerns the war could expand.

Courtesy: Dawn

Babar Azam steps down as Pakistan captain after World Cup exit

Babar Azam stepped down as Pakistan's cricket captain on Wednesday, days after a group stage exit from the World Cup.

Azam captained Pakistan in all three formats starting October 2019, and led them to number one in ICC One Day International (ODI) rankings for the first time in May.

Pakistan slid from the spot after finishing fourth in Asia Cup and fifth in the World Cup.

"It's a difficult decision but I feel it is a right time for this call," the 29

year-old wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Advertisement · Scroll to continue "I will continue to represent Pakistan as a player in all three formats. I am here to support the new captain and the team with my experience and dedication."

His resignation comes two days after Pakistan bowling coach Morne Morkel stepped down.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) accepted his resignation. "After consultation with his family, Babar



decided to step down and PCB stands behind his decision," they said in a statement.

Batsman Shan Masood has been announced by the PCB as the new test captain while pacer Shaheen

Afridi will be the T20 captain. Azam is ranked by ICC as a top five batsman in all three formats, and is Pakistan's most successful captain in T20 Internationals with 42 wins.

Courtesy: <https://www.reuters.com/>

Govt, IMF agree on backup steps in review talks

The caretaker government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have reached a consensus on backup measures to activate by the year's end if significant deviations from fiscal and monetary objectives threaten the broader aims of the ongoing \$3 billion loan programme.

Informed sources told Dawn that a visiting mission of the IMF and the Pakistani authorities would be concluding technical-level discussions on Friday that involve an exchange of the latest data, not only limited to the end-September quarterly performance, and queries and clarifications on all macroeconomic areas and their forward-looking outcomes.

While formal policy-level talks are expected to begin on Monday, both sides agree on the future course of action, including expanding the scope of taxation on the retail sector and improving the targeting of real estate-based revenue collection in case of any shortfall.

A fixed taxation scheme for retailers could be the first shot in the arm in case of a minor revenue gap, to be followed by real estate, through an ordinance with effect from Jan 1. Further clarity and specifics would emerge in policy discussions next week.

The sources said revenue targets aimed through import growth were the key concern for the IMF mission, as imports so far remain subdued than anticipated at the time of budget 2023-24 and the loan deal's finalisation in July.

In any case, both retail and real estate sectors would be required to significantly increase their contribution to the revenue stream from their existing share with effect from July 1, 2024.

The sources said the two sides had no big issue on the need for curtailing development spending



during the current year both at the federal and provincial levels, but effective taxation on agriculture income remains out of the caretaker government's agenda given constitutional limitations, although the IMF mission has not given up flagging its importance.

In August, the government shared with the IMF a revised plan for managing the power sector circular debt, besides rebasing annual tariffs and streamlining monthly and quarterly fuel adjustments, including that of the private power utility K-Electric. This meant no fresh flow to the circular debt, which had gone beyond Rs2.5 trillion by the end of September.

"Luckily, no major issue has emerged so far for the power sector this time," an official said, hoping that policy-level talks with the IMF would remain smooth.

However, the government may have to make proper allocations to solarise tube wells in next year's budget to further cut down on subsidies.

The policy-level talks next week would also suggest if the IMF had any problem with external financing needs that Pakistani authorities plan to meet through significantly higher foreign direct investment (FDI).

The government aims to attract

this investment from friendly nations particularly in mines and minerals, agriculture, aviation and energy sectors through the newly created civil-military forum, the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The authorities are expecting such FDI both through green-field investment and brownfield through privatisation to get impetus by January next year, given the advanced stages of negotiations on an umbrella trade treaty with Gulf nations and bilateral agreements.

Also, they anticipate improved market conditions for the international capital market and commercial financing based on the successful completion of the IMF review and the disbursement of the second loan tranche, worth over \$710 million, of the current loan programme ending in late March next year.

Officials said the caretaker government has not only met the IMF's requirement for no more government guarantees but had in fact outperformed by over Rs150bn by retiring some of the guarantees.

Likewise, it has also complied with no more borrowing from the central bank, while the gas sector's circular debt had been stopped with the latest massive gas price hike notified with effect from November 1.

Questions are reported to have

been raised on the exchange rate management leading to the rupee's appreciation, but authorities have insisted that the change had been brought through administrative actions against smuggling and illegal operations and not through intervention.

The government and the IMF already have similar views on containing the development programme both at federal and provincial levels for fiscal tightening to minimise budget deficit and consolidate primary fiscal surplus. They plan to wrap up the review by November 16.

Earlier, the authorities had briefed the IMF team about the consultative process with provincial governments for not only slashing the federal funding to provincial projects but also the need to limit the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) of the federation and annual development plans (ADPs) of the provinces.

Pakistan has to achieve primary surplus the difference between total revenues and expenditures except interest payments at 0.4 per cent of GDP (about Rs400bn) based on Rs600bn cash surpluses to be returned to the federal government by the provinces.

The government has already crossed Rs416bn primary surplus in the first quarter of this fiscal year. The provincial cash surpluses did not materialise in the first quarter as planned, but the trend would reverse going forward.

The major achievement on primary balance had come through a tight squeeze on PSDP and subsidies, as total spending in the first quarter stood at less than Rs41bn against a full-year budget allocation of Rs950bn.

Courtesy: Dawn

Lok Mela Kicks Off in Islamabad with Spectacular Display of Pakistani Culture

This year's Lok Mela Pakistan's largest folk festival will be held from November 3 to November 12 at the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa), Islamabad.

The festival will showcase the richness of Pakistan's cultural diversity, featuring provincial pavilions, shopping stalls, food vendors, musical performances, highlighting the diverse cultures and traditions of all four provinces, as well as Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir.

Under the theme "Peace and Harmony through Cultural Diversity", Lok Mela 2023 will highlight the contributions of people



from diverse communities to Pakistan's cultural identity.

A large number of master craftsmen, folk artists, musicians and folk dancers from all over Pakistan are expected to participate in the festival.

The visitors to the festival can expect to experience a variety of cultural activities, including traditional dances, folk music performances, arts and crafts demonstrations, and food from all over Pakistan.

The festival will also feature an open

mic programme where talented singers can showcase their voices.

The Minister for National Heritage & Culture, Jamal Shah, expressed his enthusiasm for the event, emphasizing its role in fostering national cohesion and promoting cultural diversity. Shah also announced that all festival activities would be conducted in support of the Palestinian people, with a special stall dedicated to collecting funds for Palestine.

Lok Mela 2023 is a unique event that celebrates the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan. It is a must-visit for anyone interested in learning more about Pakistan's diverse culture and traditions.

Courtesy: dunyaneews

Govt reveals plan to expel documented immigrants

As a UNHCR team postponed its visit to district Khyber due to a purported threat alert, Pakistan announced its plan to deport registered Afghan immigrants as well after the forced repatriation of undocumented immigrants, with Balochistan caretaker minister Jan Achakzai saying the policy was in reaction to militants using Afghanistan as a launching pad to foment terrorism in the country.

On the other hand, Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman demanded the formation of a commission to deal with the issue of refugees, saying "unilateral decisions do not serve Pakistan or Afghanistan".

At a press conference at the Karachi Press Club, the Balochistan caretaker information minister claimed the government would start the same campaign against those living with legal documents in the country in line with the "state's decision".

Though the caretakers lack the authority to make policy decisions, the minister claimed the deportation drive would not come to a halt after the elections due in February next year. "And no one should be mistaken. This is the decision of a 'sovereign state' to repatriate all illegal immigrants. So any political government comes to power after the

elections, this process would continue. The new government would be bound to follow this policy," he said. The minister claimed terrorists were using the Afghan soil to target "our security forces and that is why we have decided to send illegal immigrants to their home countries".

He addclaimed six terrorists killed in Zhob last week were Afghan nationals. "With the new [Taliban] government set-up taking charge in Afghanistan two years ago, the incidents of terrorism in Pakistan have increased," he said.

"The Balochistan government has so far blocked some 100,000 fake Computerised National Identity Cards (CNICs) in two districts of the province. Action would also be taken against officials found responsible for the issuance of fake CNICs to the illegal immigrants."

Similarly, he said, some 20,000 fake CNICs had reportedly been blocked in Sindh.

"The FIA is fully collaborating with the provincial government in tracing out the whereabouts of illegal immigrants. So far, 80,000 illegal Afghan immigrants have been sent back from Balochistan and the process of deportation would be accelerated in coming days," added Mr Achakzai.

Meanwhile, talking to media in



Islamabad, the JUI-F chief said Afghan refugees will have to ultimately leave Pakistan, but the "issue is being mishandled".

"There should be a bilateral commission to discuss and resolve the issue between both countries."

Mr Rehman said the interim Afghan government should have been taken on board before sending refugees back to their homeland.

In a reference to the spike in terror attacks after the Afghan Taliban's rise to power, the JUI-F chief said as per his knowledge, the government in Kabul declared that cross-border attacks are not 'jihad'.

"Afghan government got a fatwa (decree) from their religious leaders in this regard as well," he added. UNHCR visit cancelled

Officials of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) cancelled a visit to Khyber district on Thursday in light of the threat a possible attack on government

installations and other soft targets.

Sources said the interior ministry issued the alert and requested officials to notify the UNHCR team so that they could postpone the visit.

An official version from the UNHCR, on cancelling the scheduled visit, could not be obtained despite repeated attempts.

Meanwhile, voluntary repatriation of illegal Afghan nationals to their homeland continued on Thursday nine days after the expiry of the deadline for voluntary repatriation on October 31.

In addition, 3,056 individuals departed for Afghanistan via Angoor Adda border crossing in South Waziristan.

As many as 197,652 immigrants 14,683 families comprising 55,394 men, 42,921 women, and 98,098 children have so far left for Afghanistan via KP borders since September 17.

Courtesy: Dawn

Fakhar Zaman sparkles to keep 'calculated' Pakistan in the hunt

At long last, led by the imperious Fakhar Zaman, Pakistan showed driving ambition and clarity of thought at the World Cup.

On a rainy Saturday here at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, in a game they needed to win to stay alive, Pakistan found a way. This time, they weren't clueless about what needed to be done. This time, they didn't succumb to adversity.

New Zealand had plundered Pakistan for 401-6 in their stipulated overs here in India's Garden City.

How they responded with the bat, was a show of mental fortitude and exceptional planning, something that couldn't have been associated with the Babar Azam-led side until probably the last week.

To act like that, Pakistan needed inspiration. It was provided by Fakhar a man who many didn't even want to be a part of the World Cup squad.

Others kept dubbing him as Pakistan's 'X-factor', waiting for his day to come.

When the day came, it came in a bundle of two. After playing lead in Pakistan's thrashing of Bangladesh in Kolkata on Tuesday, Fakhar's sparkling 126 not out was a knock to remember.

It set Pakistan's course in a tricky chase and his innings saw his side well ahead of the DLS par score. When the heavens opened up, Babar's men winning the contests by 21 runs.

The win gave Pakistan two crucial points, an improved run-rate and a ray of hope to make it to the Cup semi-finals by finishing fourth in the league standings.

They are now level on points with fourth-placed New Zealand and sixth-placed Afghanistan, the other side in the mix.

Afghanistan, however, have a game in hand with Pakistan and New Zealand only having their final league fixture to come.

Third-placed Australia pushed



closer to a place in the semis with their victory over beleaguered holders England in Saturday's other game and the way they're performing, it doesn't seem they will be missing out on a spot.

Pakistan's last game is against England on Saturday, by when New Zealand will already have played Sri Lanka and Afghanistan too would've played their ninth games. It effectively means, they'll know what they have to do, just like against New Zealand where Pakistan had all the calculations sorted and played accordingly.

'We had it in the back of our minds that it will rain and planned accordingly,' Fakhar said during the post-match press conference.

We sent a message to the management after 15 overs, that it is drizzling, so tell us how many overs because we knew that before 20 overs the DLS method is not applicable, so we asked them what target we need to achieve in 20 overs.

Of course, planning is very important at that stage, playing without planning is very difficult. We had planned yesterday also and even today we played over by over.

Pakistan were rocked early in their chase when his fellow opener Abdullah Shafique was caught superbly by New Zealand captain Kane Williamson, but Fakhar and his skipper Babar (66 not out) stitched a blistering 194-run stand to keep Pakistan head of the par score on both occasions the match was interrupted.

The opener revealed he and his captain had assessed that the pitch was good enough for even a 400-run target to be chased.

The situation, due to the rain, did not demand that though.

As soon as Babar came out, I told him that the wicket is not swinging and if we maintain a good partnership, it will be very easy for us later,' he said. 'We understood very early on that the wicket is good and we can chase the score of 400.

Fakhar admitted Pakistan may have hit form too late in the tournament, but now they have got the rhythm.

This team is very talented,' he said. 'If you see from the beginning till now it just that we need a rhythm, which we tend to lose over time. I think our team lacks a rhythm and when we get that rhythm then everyone plays well.

Despite the Pakistan bowlers being smacked for 400 runs, Fakhar was of the opinion they bowled well given the conditions at play.

Even in this match at the end the bowlers made a very good comeback,' he said. 'The way the wicket was playing, I think we saved 30 to 40 runs.

Pacer Mohammad Wasim (3-60) was the pick of the four Pakistan pacers who played the game and he too echoed Fakhar's views.

'The wicket was really difficult to bowl,' he said. 'I think they could have gone on to score 440-450 but we bowled well by the end.' He added Pakistan bowlers were getting used to the conditions here in India and that was helping them.

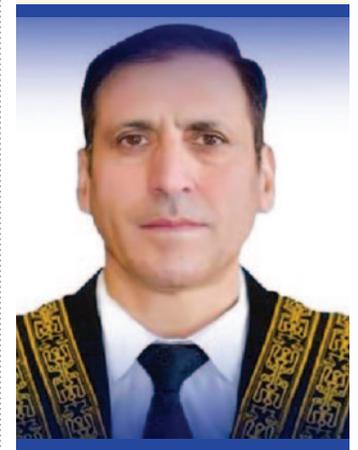
For their form to be of some use, fate now needs to be on Pakistan's side for them to potentially face archrivals India in the semi-final in Kolkata.

Courtesy: Dawn

Justice (Retd) Arshad Hussain Shah takes oath as KP's interim chief minister

Justice (Retd) Arshad Hussain Shah was sworn in as the caretaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister on Sunday, Aaj News reported.

He has been made the new interim KP CM after former caretaker chief executive Azam Khan passed away following a brief illness.



After a discussion between Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, former CM Mahmood Khan, and former opposition leader Akram Durrani, Shah's name was finalised for the new interim KP CM.

Former KP caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan passed away Saturday due to illness at a private hospital.

JI demands removal of governors

According to the spokesperson of the Rehman Medical Institute, Azam Khan was shifted to the private hospital on Friday night when his health deteriorated.

Hospital spokesman Shabbir Shah said Azam Khan was suffering from multiple diseases and was in a critical condition.

He was kept in the hospital's intensive care unit (ICU). Due to his illness, he had limited his movement for the past few days.

Courtesy: Business Recorder

Next budget must adapt to climate change demands, IMF tells Pakistan

As Pakistan seeks continuous and extended international support at the global climate conference (COP28) in Dubai this week, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has told the government that the budget for FY2024-25 should practically be a turning point for the planning mechanism and investment portfolios based on climate adaptation.

“There is a need to be transparent on climate-related actions that have budgetary implications to support policy making and climate financing,” said the IMF as part of technical advice to the government before it starts next year’s budget preparations to garner international support and attract climate-related financing.

A high-level delegation led by caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar is attending the Conference of Parties (COP28) beginning November 30. “Pakistan is all set to plead its case in COP28,” said the Ministry of Planning and Development on Sunday.

According to the ministry, it was “aligning the future of Pakistan with the blueprint for a sustainable future, presented by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination”.

Last week, caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar had at least two marathon sessions with multilateral and bilateral lenders as a precursor to the COP28 and made a pitch for additional international financial support, particularly those relating to ‘debt for nature and debt for social development swaps’ to help Pakistan meet climate finance targets.

The IMF asked the ministries of finance and planning the two major leading budget-making stakeholders “to improve transparency by presenting in budget documentation summary information on key aspects of the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) and the



wider public investment programme” due to insufficient information on the implications of climate-related actions on the budget.

It said the Planning Commission should develop a proposal in concert with the Finance Division for approval by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) and an agreement on the approach should be reached by mid-2023 i.e. by the end of December for inclusion in the 2024-25 budget documentation.

“Advance the work on green budgeting, including budget tracking and publish information on climate-related costs to the budget,” the IMF said, asking the Finance Division to publish climate-related spending for FY2023-24, following budget tracking exercise.

The fund also asked the Ministry of Finance to build on the current tracking exercise in general to provide more guidance to line ministries in budget call circulars (normally issued every year in December or January) for FY 24-25, and gradually extend tracking to revenue measures and extend green tracking system to all provinces, including through the support of controller general of accounts.

Fiscal risks under climate change scenarios

In the meanwhile, the economic adviser wing of the finance ministry must prepare and publish long-term fiscal sustainability analysis in the statement of fiscal risks under different climate change scenarios, and assess and publish information on discrete fiscal risks arising under these scenarios, the IMF said.

There is certain structural benchmark regarding climate public investment plans under the ongoing \$3bn standby arrangement to be fulfilled by the authorities by the end of December, including cabinet approval for new public investment management assessment.

As part of the exercise, the IMF believed that the appraisal process for investment and projects should be further strengthened by December 2024 to include climate factors for which more specific guidance be developed with respect to key appraisal issues such as the valuation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate impacts in order to ensure comparability across projects in the appraisal and selection stage.

Giving high priority to allocative efficiency improvement, the IMF has set December 2023 as the deadline for the application of comprehensive selection criteria to guide allocation of development budget funding that

includes climate change.

“Among other factors, these could include impact on the government’s climate targets and goals and resilience,” it said and noted at the same time that capacity constraints posed a significant challenge to the implementation of Pakistan’s climate change agenda.

Therefore, the government should step up efforts immediately to train staff to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Climate Change, Planning Commission, and Climate Change Authority with the support of relevant development partners to oversee and coordinate investment projects targeting the achievement of National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) announced last year and National Determined Contributions (NDC) goals.

The fund also advised that entire budget formulation and approval process should adapt to climate change requirements.

In this regard, the summary information in budget papers should include the number, total value in the PSDP, total value to completion, and the average estimated years to completion for new, ongoing and all projects in the PSDP, using estimates of available funding from the medium term fiscal framework or multiyear development budget indicative ceilings.

“Additional information should summarise the number and value of climate-related projects, projects associated with major current issues, such as flood recovery, total financing sources, and major projects of public interest not included in the PSDP, such as those carried out under CPEC or by SOEs,” it said, adding the summary data should also include all PSDP projects carried out from all financing sources and should not be split.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan calls for 'binding' framework on ethical AI use

Foreign Secretary Syrus Qazi has called for a binding global framework to guarantee the responsible use of AI and cyberspace and warned against unfair restrictions on developing countries' access to emerging technologies.

"Pakistan emphasises the need for international cooperation to develop a legally binding framework governing the responsible uses of cyberspace and artificial intelligence technologies," the foreign secretary said on Friday while addressing the concluding session of a workshop in Islamabad.

The event was jointly hosted by the Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS) in collaboration with the Geneva-based United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), according to a press release.

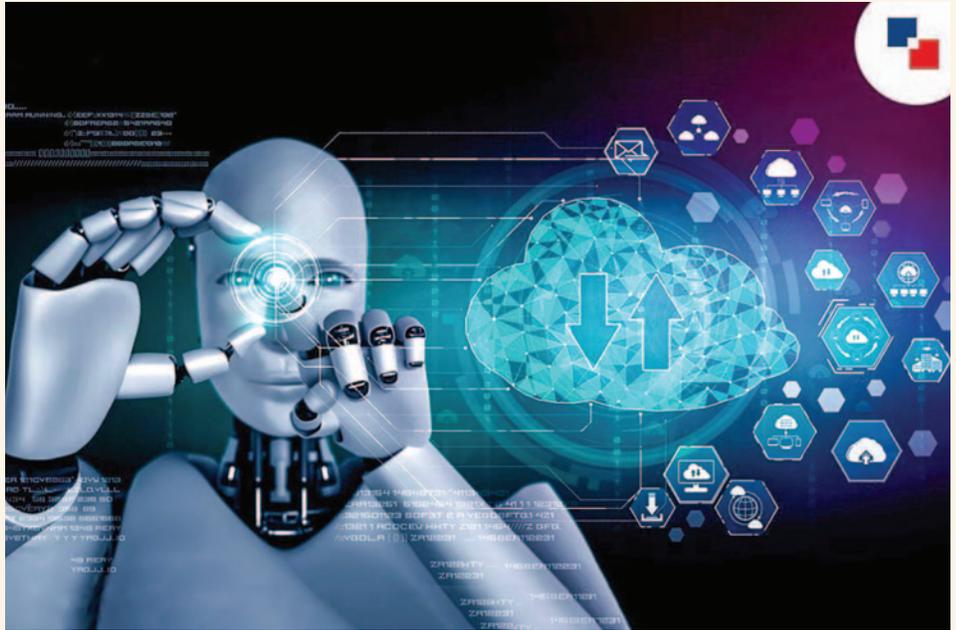
The workshop focused on exploring the convergence of AI and cyberspace in the context of global security, the security impacts of emerging technologies and their ethical considerations.



Mr Qazi emphasised that Pakistan believes in "a rule-based international order" that promotes transparency, accountability and the protection of critical civilian infrastructure.

He explained that Pakistan's position on AI is characterised by "a recognition of the technology's dual nature, a commitment to international collaboration for responsible governance, active participation in global discussions, an inclusive approach to policy-making, and advocacy for equitable access to AI technologies for all nations, especially developing countries".

The foreign secretary said that Pakistan



acknowledges the dual nature of these technologies.

The unregulated military uses of AI pose challenges to global and regional security, Mr Qazi said and reiterated Pakistan's strong commitment to address these challenges.

Pakistan is talking to the international community "to address cyber threats and mitigate the risks posed by AI's military applications".

Pakistan strongly supports fair, unconditional, and equitable access to new and emerging technologies for all countries, the foreign secretary said and voiced his opposition to the undue restrictions on access to emerging technologies.

According to Mr Qazi, the government is also advocating for an inclusive approach involving all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, academia, and civil society, to collectively develop strategies for a safe, secure, stable and open cyberspace.

'Undue restrictions'
"Such restrictions, especially in the name

of security, could hinder the development of countries in the realms of science and technology, risking the creation of a new layer of discrimination between developed and developing countries."

UNIDIR's senior researcher Dongyoun Cho said data is "the main driver of recent advancements in AI, but it also leads to many ethical issues.

"It can produce ethical and humanitarian problems as it can be incomplete, low-quality, incorrect or false," Ms Cho added.

CISS Executive Director Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi said technological advancements profoundly influence all aspects of life and are "shaping our understanding of security".

"It underscores the importance of comprehending the challenges presented by these new frontiers in technology."

He called for "a proactive and informed response" to navigate the challenges posed by these technological changes.

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
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