



POSTIVE POST

A Publication by Department of Media, Art & Design 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.

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 & Political outcomes.

March in History

March 12, 1949 : Objectives Resolution passed by Liaquat Ali Khan.

March 23, 1960: Foundation of Minar-e-Pakistan is laid.

March 2, 1963: Pakistan and China sign a border agreement in Peking (Beijing).

March 25, 1969: Ayub Khan resigns; Yahya Khan declares martial law and assumes presidency.

March 23, 1956: 1956 Constitution is promulgates on Pakistan Day. Major-General Iskander Mirza sworn in as first President of Pakistan.

March 14, 1972: New education policy enforced. Free education in all private and public schools.

March 1, 1976: General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq becomes Chief of Army Staff.

March 7, 1977: Pakistani General Election

March 23, 1981: Provisional constitutional order enforced, replacing the 1973 constitution.

March 18, 1984: Azeem Ahmed Tariq & Altaf Hussain founded the MQM (Muhajir Qumi Movement).

March 23 1985: Muhammad Khan Junejo sworn in as Prime Minister and General Zia as President.

March 8, 1998: Population census begins in the country.

March 23, 2003: AAJ TV, Pakistan's premier channel inaugurated.

March 24, 2008: Yusuf Raza Gilani is elected as the new Prime Minister.

March 6, 2009: As the result of long march Lawyers' Movement succeeded. Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry was restored as Chief Justice of Pakistan and other judges dismissed by Musharraf.

2 March 2019: Pakistan released Abhinandan Varthaman and returned him to India in a simple ceremony via Wagha border.

Strengthening economic ties between Iran and Pakistan: Nourian

By Arsalan Ahmed

Hassan Nourian, Iranian Consul General in Karachi, emphasized the need for concerted efforts between Iran and Pakistan, sister nations, to bolster each other's economies. He expressed these sentiments during a prestigious dinner hosted in his honor by the Karachi Press Club, here Thursday.

Welcomed by President Mubasher Mir and Secretary General Manzar Naqvi of the Karachi Editors Club, the event witnessed the presence of several dignitaries including Senior Vice President Colonel (Retd) Mukhtar Butt, Iranian Commercial Attache Murad Nemati, Akram Kambu, Iqbal Jamil, Colonel Ab-basi, S. Aftab Ahmad, Nauman Ahmad Nabi, Dr. Amir Sajjad, and Naeemuddin.

During his address, the Iranian Consul General highlighted the potential for strengthening economic ties through banking channels. He mentioned Iran's quality products being well-received in numerous countries worldwide, with increasing demand. Furthermore,



he noted the import opportunities from Pakistan.

He reiterated Iran's consistent support for Pakistan, acknowledging Pakistan's significance as one of Iran's first allies. He expressed mutual desires for Pakistan's economic stability and the well-being of its people. To achieve this, he stressed the need for pragmatic steps by Pakistan's State Bank to promote bilateral trade. Encouraging businessmen from both countries to visit each other's territories, he anticipated a surge in trade volume benefiting both nations.

The Consul General underscored the importance of micro-banking

systems and the ongoing energy pipeline project between the two countries. He expressed optimism for resolving issues related to gas pipelines promptly. Highlighting Iran's vast energy resources including natural gas, petroleum, and excess electricity, he emphasized potential collaborations in these sectors.

Regarding trade policies, he discussed the challenges Iran faced post-revolution and its subsequent adaptation to free trade policies, emphasizing the critical role of foreign policy in trade relations. Despite decades of sanctions, Iran has progressed significantly in high-

base technology, modern culture, and IT sectors.

He praised Pakistani universities for producing brilliant students who he believed would play pivotal roles in Pakistan's development. These bright minds, he believed, would contribute significantly to Pakistan's progress in the future.

Responding to a question, he recalled discussions during former Commerce Minister Abdul Razzaq Dawood's tenure, concerning currency and barter systems to facilitate trade. He emphasized the necessity for better Pakistan-Iran-Afghanistan trade relations and proposed the revival of barter systems to eliminate currency constraints.

He highlighted the need for joint efforts by both governments and media to overcome challenges, underscoring the resilience demonstrated by Iran in facing obstacles and its progress in various fields, urging both nations to compete globally.

Courtesy: The Financial Daily

KU VC Professor Dr Khalid Iraqi distributes appointment letters to students

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi distributed appointment letters among 30 students of the KU and other public sector universities of Sindh. The United Bank Limited has offered jobs to hundreds of students of the University of Karachi and other public sector varsities in the province.

The UBL has initiated a two-day recruitment drive at the KU SYM Professional Development Center for the students of the University of Karachi which also attracts students of different universities as well. The KU and the UBL management decided to allow them to be a part of the recruitment drive and in the end, also select a good number of students from universities other than the University of Karachi.

The UBL management arranged



panel interviews with the students and offered internships and job opportunities to the students on the spot. The fresh appointees after completing their job training received the job letters from the KU VC Professor Dr Khalid Iraqi at the KU Secretariat.

On this occasion, the KU VC Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi said that the purpose of such activities is to enhance the skills of students so that they can be prepared for the corporate sector. He men-

tioned that such measures provide the best opportunities to the students, and motivate them to utilize their talents.

Earlier, the Manager of UBL Karachi University Campus Branch Quratulain Karim said that the UBL is providing internship facilities of various durations in different sections of the branch to the students of the University of Karachi throughout the semesters. She further said that newly appointed bankers would be asked to

serve in their native towns or nearby areas for their convenience.

The Dean of Faculty of Sciences Professor Dr Mussarat Jahan Yusuf, Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Professor Dr Shaista Tabassum, Dean of Faculty of Pharmacy Professor Dr Muhammad Haris Shoaib, Dean of Faculty of Law Justice Retired Hasan Firoz, Dean of Faculty of Islamic Studies Professor Dr Zahid Ali Zahidi, the KU Director SYM Professional Development Center Dr Syed Asim Ali, in-charge Students' Guidance Counselling and Placement Bureau Dr Ghazal Khawaja Hummayun, Students Advisor Dr Nosheen Raza, Advisor Campus Security Affairs Dr Salman Zubair, UBL Regional Manager Amjad Khan, District Manager Muhammad Owais, and others were also present on this occasion.

Imad stars in last-ball thriller as United clinch third title

By Arsalan Ahmed

The house was full at the venue, which was criticised for low turnout all season, when it mattered the most.

And the HBL Pakistan Super League final did not disappoint.

The crowds witnessed a thriller, which ended with Islamabad United captain Shadab Khan lifting the side's third PSL trophy and Multan Sultans players ruing as many lost finals, this time by two wickets.

It had all come down to Imad Wasim's nerves he was caught on camera soothing them smoking a cigarette in the dressing room earlier, after having registered the first-ever five-wicket haul in a PSL finale. Imad arrived at the crease after Martin Gupthill was run out after scoring a half-century and putting up 47 with Azam Khan following United's shaky start which had seen them go three down for 55 runs by the ninth over in their pursuit of 160 runs.

Imad saw Azam, Haider Ali and Faheem Ashraf fall cheaply on the other end, leaving United reeling at 129-6, needing 31 in three overs.

In came Naseem Shah bringing with him memories of cruel match-winning knocks against Afghanistan as he clobbered Iftikhar Ahmed for a big six over square-leg. Imad followed it up with two square drives, a magnificent one and a streaky one for two more boundaries.

Naseem (17 off 9) flicked it away off Mohammad Ali like an expert batter for four more, a leg-bye levelled the scores, only for him to edge a bouncer behind to Multan captain and wicket-keeper Rizwan on the penultimate ball.

Fittingly, he had left behind that one, winning run, for his brother Hunain to score and the right-hander squeezed it through the in-field on the off-side for a boundary, taking United across the line as the team's whole camp ran into the ground. Out came the celebrations and the Palestine flags, as the United players waved them in their victory lap. Imad joined in, with 19 off 17 against his name.

Earlier, Multan were boosted to a competitive total by an Iftikhar onslaught in the last two overs of the innings.



In a surprising move by the side, the right-hander came into bat at number eight, with Multan having sent tailenders David Willey and Usama Mir up the order.

The move clearly did not materialise as Imad and Shadab ripped through the Sultans' lineup, giving Iftikhar the stage to prove his worth.

The powerful batter launched medium pacer Tymal Mills out of the park in the 19th over for his first six and cleared midwicket for another on the very next ball as chants of 'Chacha, Chacha' echoed round the stands.

In the last over, Iftikhar swivelled for four more, cleared backward square for another maximum and added a boundary on a no ball to spoil Naseem's amazing figures of nine runs

in three overs to 25 runs in four overs.

Iftikhar's unbeaten 32 off 20 provided the much needed impetus to an innings that was held together by Rizwan's 53-run partnership with Usman Khan, with the latter hitting 57 off 40 his fourth fifty-plus score this season.

Shadab broke the stand at the halfway stage and went on to get Usman and Usama six overs later.

Imad, who had dismissed opener Yasir Khan and Willey in his opening spell and Johnson Charles in the 12th over, added the scalps of Khushdil and Chris Jordan to his name on consecutive balls in the 18th, which also saw Abbas Afridi get run out, thanks to a bullet throw by Shadab.

Courtesy: Dawn

PM honors 65 top exporters, taxpayers for economic contributions

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recently hosted a ceremony at the PM Office to honor 65 outstanding exporters and diligent taxpayers, acknowledged their invaluable contributions to the nation's economy.

The ceremony celebrated the achievements of approximately 40 leading exporters across various sectors such as textiles, sports, surgical goods, pharmaceuticals, foods, and steel. These exporters were lauded for their pivotal role in bolstering the country's export industry.

Besides the exporters, the event also recognized taxpayers who made significant income tax contributions.

Various categories were acknowledged, including companies, Associations of Persons (AOPs), and individual taxpayers, showcasing the diverse spectrum of contributors to the nation's tax base.

The recipients of the awards included Mian Muhammad Mansha, Mian Umar Mansha, Mian Muhammad Adrees, Shahzad Asghar Ali, Masood, Yaqoob Ahmed, Ziyad Bashir, Nadeem Akhtar, Zulfqar Ali, Hassan Saleem, Israr Agha, Asif Juma, Faisal Kareem, Bilal Ismail, Chaudhry Saif, Muhammad Ahmed, Mustafa Ibn Talha, Daniyal Ahmed, Misbah Burney, Khalid Mahmood, Nadeem Ahmed, Jafar Hussain, Mirza Javed Iqbal Ali Asghar Naqvi, Asad Hussain Zaidi, Jehanzaib Riaz, Shahid Rathore, Rohi Khan, Wasim Ahmed, Abu Bakr Hanif, Naveed Aamir, Abdul Rahman, Chaudhry Abdullah, Miandad, Mohsin Aziz, Humaira Khalid, Hira Butt, Huma Arshad, Salma Sultana, Syed Taha, Syed Ali Akbar, Ahmed Hayat Lak, Irtaza Qureshi, Imran Abbasi, Ali Asghar Jamali, Masood Nabi, Khurram



Shah, Imran Ali Shah, Nauman Ahmed Usmani, Faheem Haider, Syed Omar, Arif Akmal Saifi, Rehan Sheikh, Muhammad Ali, Farooq Hassan, Nazim Feroz, Umar Shakil, Musadik Zulqarnain, Tariq Rafi, Tariq Aziz Channa, Muhammad Haroon Mahmood, Tauseef Nawaz, Rahim Nawaz, Khalid Yousaf, Nadeem Ahmed Rana and Aslam Rahman.

Special recognition was extended to business income taxpayers demonstrating remarkable growth,

entrepreneurial taxpayers, and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) making substantial tax payments. Entrepreneurs from underdeveloped regions and significant contributors through foreign direct investment (FDI) were also honored for their vital contributions.

Furthermore, the government expressed appreciation for SMEs and first-time tax filers, offering special incentives to encourage continued high levels of tax compliance.

Courtesy: Pakistan Observer

Pakistan Army Chief discusses defence ties, bilateral cooperation with Saudi Crown Prince



Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir called on Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and reviewed bilateral cooperation between the two Islamic nations, the military's media wing said.

Pakistan's top general is holding key meetings during his official visit to Saudi Arabia.

In a statement, ISPR said COAS Asim Munir and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman discussed regional peace and security, bilateral defence and security cooperation.

Gen Asim called on Defence Minister of KSA HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, His Excellency General Fayyadh Bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili,

Chief of General Staff (CGS) Saudi Armed Forces and Engineer Talal Abdullah Al Otaibi, Assistant Minister of Defence of KSA and other senior military leadership.

During the high-level meeting, Saudi Prince highlighted that Riyadh and Islamabad have historic brotherly and strong relations, and both countries have always stood up for each other.

Saudi leader also expressed desire to further strengthen the bilateral ties and that Kingdom will always standby with Pakistan in future as well, ISPR said.

Pakistan Army Chief thanked the Saudi leadership for the warm sentiments and support for Pakistan.

Courtesy: Daily Pakistan

Two daughters of Samosa seller in Sindh pass SPSC Examination



Two daughters of samosa vendor in Tando Jam, Sindh, have passed the Sindh Public Service Commission (SPSC) to become officers in 17th grade.

Habib Ansari, 45, who used to sell samosa on the streets of Tando Jam was made proud by his two daughters named Dr Sabahat & Dr Sadaf Ansari.

Sabahat and Sadaf Ansari have become doctors in 17th grade in Sindh's Livestock Department. Both

the girls lauded their father for his hard work to get them educated.

They also appealed to parents to get their daughters educated. Meanwhile, Habib Ansari in his statement said he is proud of the hard work of his daughters.

Ansari said though his daughters have become officers, but he will continue to work as samosa seller.

Courtesy: Regional Times

NAPA to hold first ever women's festival next month



The National Academy of Performing Arts (Napa) will organise a Women's Performing Arts Festival from April 25 to May 10. This was announced by the academy's CEO Junaid Zuberi at a press conference on Friday evening.

He said it is for the first time that Napa is holding such a festival for which open call submissions were invited.

"It is a joint production of our music and theatre departments. They have jointly designed and curated it. The idea is to celebrate women artists and practitioners. It will last for 16 days in which performances will be held on a daily basis. They include 13 theatre plays, six musical performances and two dance performances," he said.

He added the academy will make it into a national level annual feature.

Some of the participants were present at the presser who informed

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the rather thin number of media persons about what they'll do at the event.

Six musical and two dance performances and 13 theatre plays will be staged at the 16-day event

Sheema Kermani said her group, Tehreek-i-Niswan which is the oldest performing arts group of Pakistan, will do a multi-media performance. "It will have stories of real life characters. It is about those women of our country who were artists but remained unsung and died without being remembered."

Nighat Chaudhary said, "My performance will feature kathak elements." She also mentioned a

performance called purdah, which she will do at the event.

Nabila Bano said she's a singer and at the festival she will be singing her originally composed songs alongside some famous English tracks. She will present some ghazals with new musical arrangements as well.

Napa's head of theatre department Afreen Seher said she's happy that the first-ever women's performing arts festival in the country is being held.

"Although it's a collaboration between the theatre and music departments, it has many kinds of performances — poetry, vocal, dance, silent storytelling. We have tried to keep it diverse. The festival is exclusively for women. Our criterion for the plays was that it must have a woman director, the protagonist has to be a woman and it should be centred on women. So the musicians are all women, the directors are all women. Another thing we're proud of is that the festival has six original plays," she added.

The academy's head of the music department, Hamza Jafri, said diverse programming has been arranged for the event. "It has classical, folk, modern, western, jazz and instrumental etc. We are bringing artists from all the genres."

Napa's faculty member Attiya Dawood said, "As a jury member I can tell you that we have worked with honesty."

Sabiha Zia, Sadaf, Ritika, Naheed Qureshi, Mehreen Hasan, Aasiya and Seerat Jafri also spoke.

Courtesy: Dawn

Enrolment Drive launched in Shangla



The education department launched an enrolment drive, saying public sector schools in the district will register 21,000 children aged below 5-7.

The drive was inaugurated by additional deputy commissioner Adnan Khattak in a special ceremony at the Government Primary School No 1, Alpurai.

District education officer Muzaffar Ali Khan, sub-divisional education officer Aurangzeb Khalil, assistant SDEOs, and representatives of government and non-governmental organisations also attended the event.

Mr Khattak highlighted the importance of education and said a society could progress only if its members were educated.

He said the district administration would utilise its resources to enrol out-of-school children to ensure their promising future.

The AD said Shangla was extremely backward in the education development index HDI, and it required extensive planning

to address the prolonged issue.

“It’ll be our top priority to engage all segments of society for the enrolment of out-of-school children, especially girls,” he said.

The DEO said the enrolment drive would target 21,000 out-of-school children in the district.

He said research, planning, and commitment were required to achieve the target.

Mr Khan said for the first time, the department had planned door-to-door visits in every union council of the district to bring the maximum possible number of children to schools. He said all segments of society should join hands to prepare children and youth with modern knowledge and skills for their development.

On the occasion, the ADC and education officers enrolled several children and gave them free textbooks and school bags. The drive will continue for the next two months in the district.

Courtesy: Dawn

ICC delegation called on Chairman PCB



The ICC delegation visiting Pakistan to inspect venues and facilities for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 called on Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi today. The delegation led by Chris Tetley, ICC’s Head of Events, included Sarah Edgar, Senior Manager event operations at ICC and Aun Zaidi, Manager event operations.

The meeting was also attended by COO PCB Salman Naseer and Director International Cricket PCB Usman Wahla and other PCB officials. Discussions regarding the lead-up to and successful conduct of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 took place between the PCB and ICC delegation.

Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi: “Pakistan is set to host an ICC Tournament which is an absolute pleasure and a welcome development not just for the board but also for the fans across the country who are an important stakeholder in this sport. The PCB will arrange top-notch facilities as per the stature of this historic tournament.

“I am delighted to announce that the PCB will upgrade the three major venues in the country well in time before the start of ICC Champions Trophy 2025. The PCB will leave no stone unturned in making this a very successful and memorable tournament.”

Courtesy: www.app.com.pk

President for further boosting of bilateral relations with UAE in the different fields Zardari for enhanced trade, investment ties with US

By Arsalan Ahmed

President Asif Ali Zardari emphasised the need for further boosting of bilateral ties between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the areas of trade, economy, aviation, renewable energy, climate change and human resource development for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries. The president expressed these views while talking to Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. Talking to the ambassador, the president urged the need to increase collaboration in the aviation industry to facilitate the Pakistani diaspora in the UAE, including the initiation of commercial flights of Airbus A380s.



He said that Emirati businesses should be encouraged to invest in the Pakistan Stock Exchange to infuse innovative ideas and more capital in the Pakistan’s economy. Talking about Sindh, the president apprised that Pakistan had started investing in mangrove forests and was trading carbon credits in the international market. He suggested that Pakistan and the UAE should mutually benefit from this opportunity.

Courtesy: The Financial Daily



Karachi's Safe City Project inching towards reality as Murad approves Rs5.5bn for initial phase

The Smart Safe City project on Wednesday took a step forward when the chief minister approved signing an agreement of Rs5.5 billion for the project and high security "red zone" and airport corridor were marked as its initial points where 1,300 CCTV cameras with facial and automatic vehicle's number plate recognition system would be installed.

However, it took the Sindh government almost eight years to take the decision to this effect for the project which was envisaged and launched in 2016.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah approved signing an agreement of Rs5.5 billion between the Sindh Police and National Radio & Telecommunication Corporation (NRTC) to launch the first phase of the Smart Safe City project in the red zone.

Under the system, monitoring of hospitals for criminals or suspects, multiple camera tracking against suspects and response, database management of criminals and integration with national, criminal, and other databases would be done, it added.

"The project was much awaited and finally it was seeing the light of the day. I hope that it would achieve its target. I want NRTC to complete the first phase in the one and half years," the statement quoted the CM as saying.

The meeting was told that the safety system would safeguard the city through artificial intelligence-based digital transformation. The CM said that Karachi had more than 20.38 million population which would increase by 2030.

"Therefore, controlling crime and



critical incidents, public unrest, disaster management and traffic safety were his (CM's) top priorities and their solution lay in technological integration and cyber security," said the statement.

The conceptual framework of the smart safe city Karachi includes swift delivery-response and services-digital forensics and analysis of incidents, situational awareness through one window operation, real-time monitoring of activities, systematised traffic & crowd examining and monitoring,

timely action against untoward incidents and intelligence data co-relations from a database.

In August 2023, CM Shah had performed soft launch of integrated "C5ISR-based" safe city project. C5ISR stands for command, control, communication, computer, cyber security, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. Officials say the fresh contract between the NRTC and the Sindh Safe Cities Authority is "a kind of execution" of the same soft launch.

Courtesy : Dawn

Women players display great talent at night cricket tournament in Karachi

Men dressed in casual t-shirts and trousers, screaming in excitement as someone gets a wicket or hits a six, is a common sight on Ramazan nights in the metropolis. Night cricket has become a part of culture now.

But, due to lack of safe spaces for women, it was not very gender neutral. However, Khelo Cricket, a sports organisation, took an initiative of conducting women's cricket league in the holy month.

A three-day event named 'Khelo Khawateen' held at Kutchi Memon Ground wrapped up on Sunday.

This tournament, now in its 7th edition, was first initiated in 2016 and boasts participation from 12 teams.

The teams include Athletic Club, BSL Pink, MW Tigers, Sindh Promoter Green, Khelo Strikers, BSL Green, BSL Champions, Khelo Stars, Sindh Promoter Whites, BSL Cricket Club and Khelo Sparks.

"When we started out, there were just four teams. It has grown over the years, getting bigger and better. We've

over 120 girls participating in this year's tournament," Hadeel Obaid, founder of Khelo Cricket said.

Spectators, including parents, cheer for their favourite teams

"The idea of this event was to create and claim a safe space for girls to play cricket. We aim to encourage more and more women to come out at night and play," she added.

The ground was vibrant with energy and anticipation as spectators eagerly awaited the results.

Teenage girls raced around the pitch, ensuring their team's success, while parents accompanying them watched with bright eyes. Seeing the girls' unwavering energy, despite their sweaty faces, was the event's highlight.

"I have been playing cricket for as long as I can remember, but due to lack of safe spaces I'd shy away from playing at night. This is one remarkable effort to enhance visibility of women players and I am grateful for it," Zainab, who was later awarded with player of the match.



The majority of participants fell between the ages of 15 and 20, with a few newcomers experiencing their first tournament.

"I have started playing cricket on regional level recently but this is the first time I am playing at night. I was not allowed to practise late at night because of the security concerns my parents had but this year, I have convinced them to come with me and sit through the matches," 16-year-old Maria said.

The crowd was bustling with parents accompanying their kids, eagerly watching the matches where their daughters either played or coached. The pavilion echoed with cheers as people rooted for their favourite teams.

"In my opinion, the more you suppress your daughters, the more

you're creating hurdles for them. My daughter is a medical student yet she is passionate about cricket, so I take her everywhere. If my kid has got talent, I will support it because it is my responsibility," Muhammad Iqbal, the father of another player, said.

"Since I was not able to play and pursue my own dreams, I want my daughter to do it. My life revolves around accompanying my daughter to the gym, and then to cricket grounds. She is so passionate about her game and as a parent, I feel obliged to support her," Ms Sohail, another parent said.

The matches ended around 2am in the morning, with sponsors handing out prizes to the qualifying teams and star players.

Courtesy Dawn

*11 SAU-FAO Partnership Boosts Sindh Farmers' Prosperity with Intercropping Innovations*11*



Tandojam (Press Release): In collaboration between Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), remarkable strides have been made in enhancing the economic prosperity of local farmers across three districts in Sindh through the adoption of "intercropping."

Under the visionary project titled "Transforming Indus Basin with Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Water Management," jointly initiated by SAU and FAO, a total of 22 experimental fields have been established in various union councils spanning Umerkot, Sanghar, and Badin districts of Sindh. These fields served as testing grounds for the innovative practice of intercropping, particularly focusing on sugarcane and wheat. Experts from Sindh Agriculture University provided technical assistance, while FAO supported farmers in seed and fertilizer supply.

Addressing the Farmers' Day, the Focal Person of the Project, Dr. Ghulam Murtaza Jamro, stated that farmers are encountering severe

challenges due to economic hardships and climate change. Intercropping, which involves employing zero tillage and raised bed, ridges sowing wheat methods on 22 demonstration plots, will result in higher yields at lower costs and enable the benefits from two crops on a single field.

Noted agricultural expert Professor Muhammad Mithal Jiskani stated that they are introducing farmers to modern agricultural practices, teaching them how to produce better and certified seeds from their crops to protect them from uncertified and expensive seeds.

Local farmers Ali Hassan Pahore and Aijaz Ahmed Pahore mentioned that SAU and FAO have provided guidance on initiatives related to modern agricultural practices, intercropping, and better seeds from personal crops.

The Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agriculture University, Dr. Fateh Marri, expressed satisfaction with the excellent results of the joint efforts by SAU and FAO.

Courtesy: Linkein

Chinese University appoints Pakistani scientist as a visiting professor



The Hunan University of Chinese Medicines, China, has appointed Prof. Dr. Raza Shah, the Senior Professor at the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, as its visiting professor.

According to the ICCBS, University of Karachi spokesman, the world-famous Chinese University made this appointment in recognition of Prof. Raza Shah's academic stature and outstanding contribution to the development of traditional medicines.

Prof. Dr. Farzana Shaheen, the Director of the ICCBS, University of Karachi, congratulated Prof. Raza Shah for his achievement.

Prof. Shah was also recently appointed as a member of the Expert Advisory Committee, WHO International Traditional Medicine Clinical Trial Registry. It is also worth mentioning that Prof. Raza Shah has recently received the

Iranian Khwarizmi International Award from the Ministry of Science, Research Technology of Iran and became the Khwarizmi International Laureate.

It is pertinent to mention here that Prof. Shah, working in the area of Nanomedicine and Supramolecular Chemistry, has authored six books (Elsevier) and also edited four books (Elsevier), along with 09 chapters in books and more than 460 research articles in international journals with impact factor more than 1700 with H-index 50. He has three US patents to his credit. He has supervised and co-supervised 35 Ph.Ds. and 44 M.S/M.Phil scholars.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi, Prof. Dr. Khalid Mehmood Iraqi, and Prof. Dr. Attaur Rahman, Professor Emeritus and former Federal Minister for Science and Technology, congratulated Prof. Raza Shah for his achievement.

Courtesy: Bol news

China to continue to be main driver of the global economic uplift: Ambassador Hashmi

economic growth target of 5% proposed for this year, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi said that this makes it clear that China will continue to be the main driver of global economic development, main trading partner of most countries in the world, and an important source of stability, peace and prosperity. China's growth will drive the growth of the rest of the world. For example, the miracle of China's electric vehicles has promoted the development of



renewable energy and had a great impact on the rest of the world, he said in an interview with Beijing Daily. Hashmi, who assumed as Pakistan's ambassador in China in November last year, was invited to listen to China's Two Sessions for the first time. He said that the Two Sessions are an important embodiment of China's democratic practice and attract attention at home and abroad.

Courtesy: The Financial Daily

**Adnan Siddiqui, Sajal Aly honoured with civil awards
Governor Punjab Baligh-ur-Rehman awarded Tamghah-e-Imtiaz (Medal of Excellence) to actress Sajal Ali.**



Lahore: The government awarded civil honors to actor Adnan Siddiqui and actress Sajal Aly.

On the occasion of Pakistan Day, a civil honors ceremony was held at Governor House Punjab in which people associated with various fields including education, health, sports and art were awarded medals of distinction.

Governor Punjab Baligh-ur-Rehman awarded Tamghah-e-Imtiaz (Medal of Excellence) to actress Sajal Aly.

On the other hand, a civil honors ceremony was also held at Governor House Sindh, where Sindh Governor Kamran Tesori awarded honors to personalities who have served in various fields.

On Pakistan Day, actors Adnan Siddiqui and Qadir Bakhsh Mattu were awarded with the Best Performance Award, while Mai Dhair from Thar was awarded with the Pride of Performance Award.

Courtesy: Geo news

Pakistan Railways to add premium dining cars for more trains, says CEO

After the success of its initial experiment, Pakistan Railways (PR) is planning to introduce premium lounge dining cars in more trains to improve the travelling experience, according to its chief executive officer. While speaking to passengers at an open e-court at PR's headquarters

Karachi-Multan Bahauddin Zakria Express.

The premium dining car, with 40 food items on the menu, including barbecue and pizza, had a capacity for 45 passengers to dine at one time.



on Thursday, Amir Ali Baloch said the passengers "widely admired" the service which will now be expanded to other trains starting from Tezgam Express and Hazara Express in the near future.

In January, PR launched its "Restaurant on Wheels" project for passengers travelling through the

The air-conditioned carriage is also equipped with ovens (tandoors), microwave and other facilities.

While responding to passengers' queries, Mr Baloch said railways have been striving to improve passenger and freight-related services to increase revenue.

Courtesy: Dawn

Chairman PCB Inaugurates Historic Inter-College Ramadan T20 Cup

Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated the first-ever Inter College Ramadan T20 Cup at the headquarters of Pakistan Cricket, at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. Chairman PCB also unveiled the glittering trophy during the opening ceremony which was attended by all 10 participating colleges.

PCB COO Salman Naseer, Commissioner Lahore Division Mohammad Ali Randhawa, LCCA president Khawaja

Nadeem, and Director Domestic PCB Abdullah Khurram Niazi also attended the opening ceremony of the historic Inter College Ramadan T20 Cup.

Following the opening ceremony, GCU took on MAO College in the first match of the tournament. The 21 matches taking at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore will be broadcast LIVE on PTV Sports.

Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi: "This Inter-College T20 tournament will help us unearth



new and exciting talent not just in Lahore but in Karachi and Islamabad as well. Players from the Grassroots level can ply their trade and make a name for them-

selves with this brilliant opportunity."

By Arsalan Ahmed

While commenting on China's

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