



Positive Post

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.

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.

May in History

19 May 1954: *Pakistan and the United States sign a Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement.*

1 May 1967: *Five opposition parties: the National Democratic Front, Council Muslim League, Jamaat-e-Islami, Pakistan Awami League, and Nizam-e-Islam Party, form an alliance called the Pakistan Democratic Movement.[103]*

27 May 1974: *1974 Anti-Ahmadiyya riots result in the death of 27 Ahmadiyyas and declaration of Ahmadiyyas as non Muslim.*

26 May 1980: *Establishment of Federal Shariat Court is announced.*

16 May 1991: *Islamic Shariah law formally incorporated into legal.*

May 28 1988: *The first nuclear test Code-name Chagai-I was conducted and supervised by the PAEC at Ras Koh Chaghi, Baluchistan.*

May 30 1988: *The second nuclear test Chagai-II was conducted and supervised by the PAEC.*

22 May 2004: *Pakistan readmitted to Commonwealth.*

14 May 2006: *Charter of democracy (CoD) is signed by two former prime ministers of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto in London.*

20 May 2008: *Operation Zalzal ends in a Pakistani victory.*

27 May 2018: *The twenty-fifth amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan was approved by the Parliament of Pakistan, Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).*

PM Shehbaz calls for policy to boost business, exports

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has asked the commerce ministry to constitute a ministerial committee and come up with a comprehensive proposal to make the country's exports more competitive besides formulating a trade policy that facilitates business.

While chairing a review meeting on trade-related matters, the premier asked Commerce Minister Jam Kamal and his ministry's bureaucrats to make a comprehensive presentation next time, but with brevity. The premier asked the commerce ministry to consult relevant ministries before making their presentation.

He said that measures should be taken to boost exports of non traditional items. He emphasised developing a trade policy that facilitates business. The premier said consultation should be held with the private sector to formulate policies regarding ease of trade and business.

PM Shehbaz noted that the role of the private sector and industry is very important in the country's

development. He directed ensuring timely payment of duty drawbacks to exporters, which had been stuck for the past few years. He insisted that deletion policy should be implemented for the development of the country's auto sector.

The premier also directed preparing a comprehensive strategy to evaluate the performance of trade and investment officers posted in Pakistani embassies abroad. He said he would review the export sector twice a month.

The meeting was informed that talks on Free Trade Agreement between Pakistan and Gulf countries are in their final stages, while corridor trade agreements with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan have been activated with positive results.

Stakeholders are being consulted on Preferential Trade Agreements with Azerbaijan and Afghanistan.

It was informed that both Iran and Russia had expressed their consent in principle for the operationalisation of barter trade. It was informed that 450 business-



to-business meetings were held at the recent Pak-Saudi Business Conference in Islamabad.

The meeting was informed that work on the gem export framework is in its final stages.

Meeting on investment

While reviewing the performance of the Board of Investment (BoI), the PM tasked the board with creating more facilities for investment and business start-ups in the country.

He instructed the BoI to formulate a mechanism on the pattern of one-window operation in consultation with all relevant ministries and provincial governments. He said a mechanism should be suggested so that investors and people who start new businesses

could face minimum hurdles.

He said investment always finds a way where it faces fewer hurdles in business. He said services of experts having international repute should be hired in this regard. He stressed taking provincial governments and representatives of the business community on board before formulating the mechanism to enhance ease of doing business.

He said the Special Investment Facilitation Council played a key role in ensuring continuity of policies and achieving the goal of economic recovery. He highlighted that visits of business delegations from friendly countries and the rise in the stock exchange show trust of local and foreign investors in policies.

Courtesy:Dawn

Hazara Waterfalls Jab Valley attracted tourists during Eid-ul-Azha

The Hazara Waterfalls in Jab Valley of Haripur district have attracted thousands of tourists during holidays of Eid-ul-Azha, giving full boost to the tourism industry of the province. According to details, this natural wonder, nestled in the heart of Jab Valley where eight majestic waterfalls, and diverse flora and fauna attract the tourists.

The valley's natural beauty is a sight to behold, with waterfalls ranging

from 50 to 100 feet in height. The trek to the waterfalls is an adventure in itself, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. Tourists have been flocking the site, praising its unspoiled beauty and serenity. These waterfalls located just 1 hour and 30 minutes away from Islamabad and a 30-minute drive from Khanpur Dam. The valley's potential for tourism is vast, and if developed, it could become a major destination, attracting



visitors across the country. If developed, this site could offer a range of activities, including hiking, trekking, and rock climbing, making it a must-visit destination for adventure seekers and nature lovers. Tourist guide and famous trekker Moazam Ali said that Hazara Waterfalls Jab Valley is a natural beauty. With proper development and management, this spot could become a major tourist destination, attracting visitors and showcasing Pakistan's natural beauty, he added.

Khalid Tanoli, a local trekker said, "I was really shocked to see the charismatic beauty of Hazara Waterfalls." He said that although it's difficult to reach the waterfall, knowing about its beauty makes you willing to accept the challenge and visit that scenic spot. Shoaib Khan urged the KP tourism department to add this wonderful destination to the list of tourism spots and provide basic facilities to attract more visitors.

Courtesy:The Nation



President orders action to improve Sindh law, order

President Asif Ali Zardari directed the Sindh government to launch a result-oriented operation against street criminals in the financial capital and against dacoits in the riverine belt by setting up police pickets on the right bank of the River Indus to cover katcha areas of Shikarpur and Kashmore districts, in close coordination with other provinces.

President Zardari directed the interior minister to develop an effective coordination among the Balochistan, Sindh, and Punjab administrations for tri-border management.

The president was earlier briefed at a special meeting on law and order in Sindh that 48 cases of street crime claimed 49 lives in Karachi, as crime against property had increased despite a slight drop in crime against persons so far this year. Also, Mr Zardari was informed that 17 policemen embraced martyrdom and 27 sustained injuries in the operation against dacoits during the past four months. He was informed that 63 dacoits were killed, 120 others injured, 418 arrested and 469 weapons recovered in the crackdown.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan convener and Education Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, some provincial cabinet members, the chief secretary and the heads of Pakistan Rangers and Sindh Police among others attended the meeting, held at CM House.

The president directed Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah to launch a special operation to control street crime. "The operation must deliver results so that confidence of citizens could be bolstered," he said.

He also asked the chief minister to order action against the markets where stolen or snatched mobile phones and parts of vehicles were sold. "Why are the police not launching operation against the markets and people involved in the business of stolen/snatched vehicles and mobile sets?" the president questioned, and directed the CM to report to him progress in this regard.



When CM Shah attempted to assert that the general law and order situation had improved as Karachi's ranking in the world crime index dropped from sixth position in 2014 to 82 in 2024, President Zardari apparently not convinced with the security situation said Karachi had a "high crime rate without any tangible reasons".

He also instructed the chief minister to ensure that foreign nationals living and working in the province were provided with fool-proof security, emphasising the need to particularly look after the Chinese nationals working on CPEC-related projects.

Besides, he asked the chief minister to provide a posting tenure to police officers, monitor their performance, and remove them when they fail to deliver, according to a press statement issued by CM House. He categorically said: "I have zero tolerance for the illegal occupation of lands, and it must be stopped once and for all."

At the briefing, the president was apprised that 5,357 crimes against persons were reported during the first four months of the year while 5,259 cases were reported during the corresponding period of 2023, showing a decrease of 172 cases. On the other hand, the number of cases of crime against property increased from 9,782 in 2023 to 10,757 this year.

In reply to a question, the president was told that out of the 48 street crime cases which claimed 49 lives, 27 cases had been detected with the arrest of 43 suspects and killing of 13 others in encounters.

Since February 2023, a total of 107

police pickets had been established along the left bank of the River Indus, the president was informed.

He directed the provincial government to set up police pickets on the right bank of the river to cover the katcha area of Shikarpur and Kashmore districts.

In reply to a query, President Zardari was informed 123 persons were kidnapped from January to April, though only 76 of them were reported. During the same period, police recovered 104 of them and 19 cases remained unsolved.

President Zardari directed the CM to intensify the ongoing operation against dacoits and emphasised that anyone involved in or behind the kidnapping cases must be dealt with severely to set an example for others. "Kidnapping for ransom is a serious crime and it must be dealt with accordingly," he asserted.

He also directed the CM to start development works along both sides of the River Indus, particularly in the area of Rounti to Gemro and Guddu to Garhi Tegho.

Mr Zardari directed the chief minister to engage notables to resolve tribal feuds in the katcha areas so that its social aspect could also be covered.

Additionally, the president directed the provincial government to take necessary measures to prevent drug penetration in educational institutions. He directed the provincial government to launch an awareness campaign for parents and teachers, highlighting the need to protect children from this menace.

Courtesy: Dawn

Govt announces public holiday on May 28

The federal government on Monday declared May 28 a public holiday to mark the historic day, known as Youm-e-Takbeer, when Pakistan conducted successful nuclear tests in the hills of Chaghai.

In a statement, PM Shehbaz said the Youm-e-Takbeer reminded the Pakistani nation of unity to make the defence of the country invincible.

On this day, the premier said, the entire nation had resolved for the integrity of this country that no compromise would be made on the country's defence by accepting any kind of external pressure.



"The Youm-e-Takbeer reminds political and defence forces to unite under one flag, the green crescent flag, to strengthen the defence of this country," he added.

The premier also said the Youm-e-Takbeer is a day to pay tribute to the former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and the Pakistan Army for making Pakistan's defence invincible.

"On this day, we also pay tribute to [former PM] Zulfikar Ali Bhutto for initiating Pakistan's nuclear programme and the scientists who played an important role in its maintenance," the premier added.

PM Shehbaz said that the entire nation including him also pledged that they would work hard day and night to ensure the economic security of this country like they made the defence of this country impregnable on May 28, 1998.

Courtesy: The NewsInternational

Pakistan's first Olympic markswoman guns for historic medal



Slowing her breath and focusing on a bulls-eye in her pistol's sights, Kishmala Talat is aiming to become the first woman from Pakistan to win an Olympic medal.

At the Paris Games starting on July 26, Talat will compete in the 10m air pistol and 25m pistol events, going for glory abroad and defying stereotypes back home.

Pakistan's medal prospects are undercut by modesty codes which dissuade women from participating in sport.

The 21-year-old Talat, who comes from a military family, is the first Pakistani woman to qualify for Olympic shooting.

"In Pakistan there's a prevalent taboo that dictates girls should stay at home, do girly things, and play with dolls, while boys are to play with guns," she said.

"I see no one as competition. I compete with myself," she told AFP at a target range in the eastern city of Jhelum

Courtesy: The Nation

Pakistan women to feature in AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup 2025



The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) has announced the participation of the Pakistan women's futsal team in the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup 2025. This marks the first time the team will compete in a premier futsal event under the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). The qualification rounds are scheduled to start in early 2025, with the main tournament set for May 2025. In preparation, the PFF successfully organized five Women's Futsal National Cup (FNC) competitions across major cities in Pakistan. MRF claimed the title in Lahore, Hazara emerged as

champions in Quetta, Smuff triumphed in Islamabad, and the Karachi City team won in Karachi. These events were part of the PFF's efforts to advance women's futsal in the country. Haroon Malik, Chairman of the PFF Normalisation Committee, expressed his enthusiasm, saying, "I am pleased to announce our participation in the AFC Women's Futsal Asian Cup 2025. This underscores PFF's commitment to developing women's futsal in Pakistan and providing our players with opportunities to compete internationally."

Courtesy: The Nation

Pakistan Shaheens to compete in expanded Top End T20 Series 2024



The Cricket Australia (CA) has revealed the schedule for the Top End T20 Series 2024, featuring Pakistan Shaheens, Bangladesh A, and several Big Bash League (BBL) teams.

The series is slated to run from August 9 to 18 across multiple venues in Darwin, Northern Territory. The tournament will see nine teams in action, including host NT Cricket and prominent BBL teams such as Perth Scorchers, Melbourne Renegades, Melbourne Stars, Tasmania, Adelaide Strikers, and ACT Comets. Over the course of 10 days, the series will feature 30 thrilling T20 matches, concluding

with Finals Day on August 18. Teams will compete in a round-robin format, with each team playing six fixtures.

"We're thrilled the Top End T20 Series will expand this year and continue to bring the best emerging domestic and international talent to the Northern Territory," said Gavin Dovey, Northern Territory (NT) Cricket CEO. "To have cricket powerhouses like Pakistan and Bangladesh participating alongside half of the Big Bash League franchises is a testament to the potential of winter cricket in the Territory."

Courtesy: The Nation

Mehwish Hayat slays fans in white attire



Pakistan's showbiz industry actor Mehwish Hayat has slayed fans by adoring the white attire.

The 'Punjab Nahi Jaongi' star uploaded her photos on the photo and video sharing application Instagram to which the fans have showered with love.

The actor shined with simplicity as the white dress enhanced the beauty of her face which matched rightly with the makeup.

The actor's fans stormed the internet after the uploading of photos with the comment section also served as the testament of the fact that she has a good number of followers.

Courtesy: The Nation

PCB mandates domestic cricket for national team selection



The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced that participation in domestic cricket will be mandatory for players aspiring to join the national team to enhance the quality of cricket in Pakistan.

The decision was made during a meeting chaired by PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore on Monday. The meeting was convened in the wake of Pakistan's disappointing performance at the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024, where the team was ousted in the group stage following defeats to the United States of America (USA) and India.

The PCB press release stated, "The focus of the meeting was to strengthen domestic cricket in the country, with an aim to promote quality cricket at all levels." Chairman Naqvi approved a comprehensive plan to revamp domestic tournaments from the club level to the national level.

Emphasizing the importance of nurturing domestic talent, Naqvi directed PCB officials to employ experienced coaches to train emerging players. "Performance, fitness, and merit will be the key criteria for advancing players," Naqvi emphasized.

Courtesy: The Nation

PM announces 3-month relief package for protected electricity consumers



Usman Wahla, PCB Director of International Cricket, expressed gratitude towards Northern Territory for inviting Pakistan Shaheens. "I am grateful to Northern Territory for inviting the Pakistan Shaheens for the second successive year. Last year, the players had a memorable experience, enjoying the excellent playing conditions and the enthusiastic support from cricket fans."

Naimur Rahman, Chairman of

Bangladesh Cricket Board's High-Performance Unit, echoed Wahla's sentiments. "We extend our heartfelt thanks to Northern Territory Cricket and Cricket Australia for inviting the BCB High-Performance team to the prestigious Top End Series.

This opportunity will undoubtedly provide invaluable experience to our players, exposing them to a high standard of competition."

Courtesy: The Nation

Fatima Bhutto urges alma mater to stop repression of students protesting for Palestine



In the wake of ever-increasing Israeli violence against the hapless Palestinians, students across the US have been participating in peaceful protests to register their call for a much-needed ceasefire.

They have faced threats and suspensions from many universities, including the reputed Columbia institute. Many students have been expelled by the Barnard College due to their participation in sit-ins for Palestinians.

In this regard, columnist Fatima Bhutto has requested her alma

matern Barnard College to stop the suppression of students' voices for ceasefire.

Recently, some students have faced suspensions, expulsions and threats from the campus for participating in pro-Palestinian protests.

Bhutto mentioned her own experience of taking part in protests without any action against her and class fellows.

She graduated in Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures from Barnard in 2004.

Courtesy: The Nation

Govt permits export of 150,000 metric ton of sugar on mill owners demand



The federal government has given conditional permission to export 150,000 metric tons of sugar at the demand of sugar mill owners.

In the Sugar Advisory Board meeting presided over by the federal minister of industry and production. Federal Minister of Industry and Production Rana Tanveer chaired the Sugar Advisory Board meeting

The Punjab government and the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association signed an agreement. Federal minister Rana Tanveer said Sugar

export will depend on price stability and stock availability in the country.

"Availability of sugar stocks and price stability will be ensured. Ex-Mill price of sugar will not be increased under any circumstances," Rana Tanveer Hussain said.

All pending payments to farmers will be made on a priority basis and the Sugar Advisory Board will review sugar prices and market in 15 days.

Courtesy: Samaa Digital

Pakistan's lunar payload lifts off aboard Chinese mission

Pakistan's maiden lunar mission iCube Qamar embarked on its journey as part of a Chinese probe, which aims to collect samples from the far side of the moon, a world first as Beijing pushes ahead with an ambitious programme that aims to send a crewed lunar mission by 2030.

The iCube-Q orbiter, which carries two optical cameras to image the lunar surface, is a 7kg cube satellite or cubesat. Cubesats are miniature satellites typically characterised by their small size and standardised cubic design.

These satellites are used by academic institutes for experimental and research purposes in Low Earth Orbits, generally with an altitude of less than 1,000km. However, they are now finding many applications in higher orbits and deep space missions.

China launched the uncrewed spacecraft on a nearly two-month mission. The Long March-5, China's largest rocket, blasted off at 5:27pm Beijing time (0927 GMT) from Wenchang Space Launch Centre on the southern island of Hainan with the more than 8 tonnes Chang'e-6 probe.

iCube Qamar miniature satellite part of Chang'e-6 probe aimed at collecting samples from far side of moon

Chang'e-6 is tasked with landing in the South Pole-Aitken Basin one of the largest known impact craters in the solar system on the far side of the moon, which perpetually faces away from the earth, after which it will retrieve and return samples. The launch marks another milestone in China's lunar and space exploration programme.

The Chinese mission will employ lunar research payloads from multiple countries, including Pakistan's iCube Qamar, which was designed by the Islamabad-based Institute of Space Technology (IST) in collaboration with China's Shanghai University (SJTU) and Pakistan's national space agency Suparco.

The launch was attended by scientists, diplomats and space agency officials from France, Italy, Pakistan, and the European Space Agency, all of which have moon-studying payloads aboard Chang'e-6.

Pakistan's ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi, IST's Prof Qamarul Islam and other senior officials witnessed the launch. Congratulating the nation on this historic achievement, Ambassador Hashmi said the launch signifies yet another milestone and a good example of Pakistan-China cooperation in space exploration and research.

iCube Qamar
The IST said the opportunity to release the



cubesat in lunar orbit from Chang'e-6 mission was offered by the China National Space Agency (CNSA) through the Asia Pacific Space Cooperation Organisation (APSCO). After a thorough evaluation, Pakistan's proposal was accepted out of all APSCO member states.

iCube-Q carries two cameras as payload for imaging lunar surface and earth/moon images from lunar orbit besides having three-axis attitude control for desired orientation, onboard computer, thermal control, telemetry and tele-command and payload data communication modules for connecting through deep space network.

The Chang'e-6 rocket will take five days to reach the moon's orbit. iCube-Q will be deployed on May 8 in a carefully selected 12-hour elliptical orbit that will allow imaging of the desired lunar surfaces.

The IST is a federally chartered university that pioneered the development of cubesats in Pakistan by launching its first cubesat iCube-1 in Low Earth Orbit in November 2013.

According to Khurram Khurshid, the head of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department at IST and co-lead on the satellite project, this is Pakistan's first deep space mission which is a historic moment that would pave the way for launching other deep space missions in the future.

Operating in extreme temperatures as low as minus 100 degrees Celsius, the satellite features a one-megapixel camera tailored for missions with power constraints.

"Its surface-level analysis capabilities, transmitting images at a modest 1 kbps, will provide crucial data on crater locations, water, and traces of ice on the moon's surface. These findings, obtained through various techniques, hold promise for global utilisation," said Dr Khurshid, who is second to project director Dr Qamarul Islam.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated the nation on the successful launch of Pakistan's maiden lunar mission.

According to the state-run broadcaster Radio Pakistan, President Zardari said the successful launch would be a "milestone" for Pakistan's space programme.

He also commended the cooperation between Pakistan and China in aerospace.

PM Shehbaz hailed the iCube-Q satellite as "Pakistan's first step in space" and said that Pakistani scientists and engineers were "proving their mettle ... like the expertise they exhibited in the nuclear technology [programme]".

The acceptance of Pakistan's mission among eight countries was the recognition of the capabilities of the country's scientists and experts, he added.

"This is a historic milestone in the technological development. By this achievement, Pakistan has entered a new era of exploring space for productive purposes," the prime minister remarked.

PM Shehbaz said the achievement would help build Pakistan's capacity in satellite communications besides opening up new avenues for scientific research, economic development and national security.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar took to X (formerly Twitter) to "congratulate the young Pakistani students and scientists on the launch" of the lunar mission.

"Today's launch from Hainan ... is a good example of countries and organisations coming together for space cooperation and shared benefits," he added.

Courtesy: Dawn

Sadia Faisal sees women's role in rising divorce rates

Actor Sadia Faisal has sparked controversy by attributing increase in divorce rates to women.

Appearing on a podcast, Sadia shed light on dynamics of marriage in contemporary society.

She emphasised that despite the evolving societal norms, the core traditions of Pakistani culture remain steadfast and significant.

She delved into the topic of rising divorce rates in Pakistan.

“I think women have become more intolerant. They are more career-oriented now.

“When women earn more than men, their expectations increase. Thank God I have not changed like this.”

Sadia suggested that as women become more self-sufficient, their tolerance levels decrease.

According to her, this decline in tol-

erance leads to a lack of compromise. This, she believes, is a primary reason for the uptick in divorce rates.

She elaborated that women's financial independence often results in an inflated sense of self. According to her, it makes it difficult for marriages to thrive.

Pakistan suffered great loss in war against terrorism:

The actress expressed concern over the changing dynamics within marriages.

She highlighted that the balance of power and the willingness to compromise are crucial for the longevity of a marital relationship.

Sadia's comments sparked a conversation about the balance between traditional values and modern independence.

A user said: “The divorce rate has increased because women now un-



derstand that relationships require mutual effort.”

“While women make compromises, men often don't, as they are not raised to do so. This is where marriages tend to fail.”

Another added: “Wrong. It is be-

cause women finally realise their worth and now exercise their Islamic rights.”

One said: “Another entitled privileged woman telling other women to be oppressed in the name of compromise.”

Courtesy: The Nation

Body to regulate ‘unbridled’ social media set up

The government has notified the formation of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), a new dedicated body tasked with fighting cybercrimes and ensuring strict enforcement of social media regulations.

With the NCCIA's inception, the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) cybercrime wing has ceased to perform functions.

The development came a day after Information Minister Attaullah Tarar announced that the government was forming a separate authority to “safeguard the digital rights of people” and “counter propaganda and rumours on social media”.

“There must be an end to harassment, including online,” he said, calling for a specific authority to address the issue of online harassment as, at present, there is no law to protect the digital rights of consumers.

Authorities had been working on setting up a separate “empowered body” for quite some time to have strong

check on “unbridled” social media. According to an interior ministry official, the NCCIA will be empowered through legislation giving it sweeping powers to police cyberspace.

As the FIA has ceased to perform functions as a designated investigation agency after the NCCIA, “all personnel, cases, inquiries, investigations, assets, liabilities, rights, obligations, privileges and matters related thereto or connected therewith subsisting immediately before the commencement of these rules in respect of the defunct cybercrime wing of the FIA shall stand transferred to it (NCCIA).”

An FIA official Dawn spoke to expressed concern over the future of over 500 employees of the FIA cybercrime wings in the country.

“The issue of seniority of the officials of the FIA merged/transferred to the NCCIA will also arise. Besides, the first and foremost challenge the NCCIA would face is that of human resources. The FIA's cybercrime wing was facing a shortage

of trained staff. How the government handles this major problem in its new body will have to be seen,” he said.

According to a government notification, the NCCIA will have a director general, additional director general, directors, additional directors, deputy directors, assistant directors and such other officers as the DG may determine.

The appointment and other terms and conditions of service of officers and staff of the NCCIA, including the appointment on deputation or secondment, will be regulated under the Civil Servants Act 1973, unless determined otherwise by the federal government.

The federal government will appoint the director general for a term of two years, which is extendable on performance for a similar term or terms, and he is not more than 63 years of age at the time of appointment. It shows that a retired person may also be appointed the NCCIA's director general.

The notification said that until new appointments are made in the NCCIA on a regular basis or otherwise, the existing officers and staff members of the defunct cybercrime wing of the FIA performing functions under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Investigation Rules, 2018, or under any other instrument before commencement of these rules, will continue to perform their functions for one year on the terms and conditions of their service applicable to them on commencement of these rules and their service shall be counted on deputation to the NCCIA.

The administration and control of the NCCIA will vest in the director general, who will exercise, with respect to the NCCIA, the powers of an inspector general of police under the Police Order 2002.

The social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, has been banned in Pakistan since mid-February due to criticism of the government and state institutions.

Courtesy: Dawn

Pakistan launches satellite to boost internet connectivity

Pakistan launched a multi-mission communication satellite Pak Sat-MM1 to improve internet connectivity, from XiChang Satellite Launch Centre in China, the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco) announced on Thursday.

The achievement, coming on the heels of the country's maiden iCube Qamar lunar mission launched earlier this month, drew congratulatory messages from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other officials for the nation.

Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Minister Ahsan Iqbal witnessed the launch and could be seen capturing the liftoff with his mobile phone.

PakSat-MM1 has been jointly designed and developed by Suparco and the China Great Wall Industry Corporation.

This is a geostationary satellite based on advanced communication technologies that will enhance the



satellite-based communication services of Pakistan and fulfil the needs of commercial as well as government users.

"High Throughput System (HTS) technology onboard PakSat-MM1 will substantially boost connectivity to the last mile and will reshape the future of satellite communication in Pakistan. This will be the key to connect the unconnected with the rest of the country," Suparco said.

"PakSat-MM1 will ensure affordable bandwidth with higher reach within the country. Sectors such

as e-commerce, telemedicine, e-governance, Pak SBAS svc and many others will be able to grow," Suparco said in its statement.

It said PakSat-MM1 would also have Pakistan Space Based Augmentation System (Pak-SBAS) payload which would provide the integrity-based positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) services making Pakistan the 11th country in the world that would launch its own SBAS besides the USA, Russia, China, Japan, Europe, India, South Korea, Australia, Nigeria and Algeria.

"It is also a testament to the longstanding friendship between Pakistan and the Peoples Republic of China," it said.

Suparco Chairman Mohammad Yousaf Khan appreciated the efforts of engineers from both countries for the successful completion of the project.

With control stations at Lahore and Karachi, the 5-tonne satellite has a design life of 15 years with a coverage area stretching from Pakistan to the Indian Ocean, the Middle East and parts of Africa and Europe.

In Reels posted on social media, Mr Iqbal while congratulating both Pakistani and Chinese engineers said, "The satellite will provide Pakistan with much needed enhanced connectivity another important milestone in Pakistan's space programme."

Soon Pakistan will launch satellites on made-in-Pakistan rockets."

Courtesy: Dawn

Sri Lankan artists enthral audience at Alhamra

In a celebration of vibrant cultural exchange, the Sri Lankan artists brought the rich hues of their heritage to life at Alhamra's 'Kanya' programme. The event featured mesmerizing dance and music performances, captivating the audience with the essence of Sri Lankan culture. Executive Director Sarah Rashid graced the occasion with her presence and expressed her admiration for the artists. Notable performers such as



Chandana Wickramasinghe and Sonal showcased their cultural artistry with immense zeal and dedication. She noted that Traditional endeavors like these foster peace and create a conducive environment for stability. "Pakistan is an exemplary place for art lovers worldwide, where people cherish and love their guests." Rashid added.

Courtesy: The Nation

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