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## 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

### Augustin History

**14 August, 1947:** Pakistan became independent. Quaid-a-Azam took oath as the first Governor General of Pakistan. Liaquat Ali Khan took oath as the first Prime minister of Pakistan. This is followed by the migration of 10 million people, Muslims to Pakistan, Hindus and Sikhs to India .

**7 August, 1954:** Government of Pakistan approves the National Anthem, written by Abu Al-Asar Hafeez Jalandhari and composed by Ahmed G. Chagla.

**7 August, 1955:** PM Mohammad Ali Bogra resigns after the election of Chaudhri Mohammad Ali.

**1 August, 1960:** Islamabad is declared as the principal seat of the Government of Pakistan.

**11 August, 1973:** Chaudhry Fazal Ilahi is elected as president.

**14 August, 1988:** Pakistan signs the Geneva Accords (1988) with Afghanistan under the mediation of United States and Soviet union respectively.

**14 August, 2001:** New Local Government system installed, after holding of elections in three phases.

**8 August, 2002:** Shaukat Aziz becomes Prime Minister.

**24 August, 2002:** President General Musharraf issues the Legal Framework Order 2002.

**17 August 2009:** Pakistan joins the coalition for Operation Ocean Shield in Somalia.

**18 August, 2011:** Operation Koh-e-Sufaid ends in a Pakistani victory.

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## Pakistan celebrates 77 years of independence

14 August marks a significant day in the history of Pakistan, a day when the dreams of countless individuals were realized as they witnessed the birth of a new nation in 1947.

Every year, Pakistanis across the globe celebrate Independence Day with great zeal and fervor, paying tribute to the sacrifices made by those who fought for the country's freedom. As we celebrate the 77th Independence Day in 2024, it is a time not only to reflect on the journey that began over seven decades ago but also to look ahead to the future with renewed hope and determination.

The struggle for independence was not an easy one. The subcontinent was under British rule for nearly 200 years, during which time the people of the region faced various forms of oppression and exploitation. The idea of a separate nation for Muslims was first articulated by Allama Iqbal in his famous Allahabad address in 1930, where he envisioned a homeland where Muslims could live according to their beliefs and values. This vision was further crystallized by the tireless efforts of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the leader of the All India Muslim League, whose leadership was instrumental in uniting the Muslim population under the banner of independence. The year 1947 was a turning point in the history of the subcontinent. The British finally agreed to grant independence, leading to the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan on 14 August 1947. However, this victory came at a great cost. The partition led to widespread communal violence, mass migrations, and the loss of countless lives. Despite the challenges, Pakistan emerged as a sovereign nation, ready to chart its own course in the world.



In 2024, Independence Day holds a special significance as it serves as a reminder of the resilience and determination of the Pakistani people. The day is celebrated with patriotic fervor, starting with the hoisting of the national flag at government buildings, schools, and

private institutions across the country. However, despite these obstacles, Pakistan has made significant strides in various fields, including science, technology, education, and infrastructure development. The resilience of the Pakistani people has been the driving force behind the nation's progress, and their un-

work collectively to overcome them. Issues such as poverty, illiteracy, and social inequality need to be addressed with renewed vigor. Moreover, the ongoing efforts to strengthen democracy, promote economic growth, and ensure social justice must continue to be a priority for the nation. The spirit of independence is rooted in the belief that every citizen has a role to play in the nation's development. By embracing the values of unity, faith, and discipline, Pakistan can continue to build a prosperous future for all its citizens. The journey ahead may be challenging, but with determination and collective effort, Pakistan can achieve its goals and fulfill the vision of its founding leaders.

As Pakistan celebrates its 77th Independence Day, it is a time to honor the sacrifices of those



private institutions across the country. Special prayers are offered for the country's progress and prosperity, and national songs fill the air, evoking a sense of pride and unity. As we celebrate Independence Day in 2024, it is essential to reflect on the progress Pakistan has made over the years. The country has faced numerous challenges, including political instability, economic hardships, and security threats.

wavering commitment to the ideals of independence continues to inspire future generations.

Independence Day is not only a time to celebrate but also an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the principles that guided the founders of Pakistan. In 2024, as we stand on the threshold of a new era, it is crucial to focus on the challenges that lie ahead and

who made the dream of a free nation a reality. It is also a time to renew our commitment to the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice. By working together, Pakistan can continue to grow and prosper, ensuring that the legacy of independence is passed on to future generations. The road ahead is long, but with unity and determination, Pakistan can achieve greatness and secure a brighter future for all.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Arshad Nadeem hurls himself into history with Olympic gold

Arshad Nadeem entered the Stade de France for the javelin throw final with his arms in the air and a smile on his face, but left with a gold medal and an Olympic record!

In the quiet, unobtrusive manner that has become his trademark in the elite men's javelin, the 27-year-old stormed the field to take a terrific, historic gold at the finals here at the Paris Olympics with a mammoth 92.97m off his second throw.

It was an Olympic record, erasing the existing one of 90.57m, set by Andreas Thorkildsen at Beijing 2008.

For the under-powered Pakistan contingent in Paris with the once-legendary men's hockey team absent from the Olympic stage this was arguably the country's greatest moment in decades.

Arshad's gold is Pakistan's only gold medal outside of hockey, which they last won 40 years ago at Los Angeles in 1984. It is also Pakistan's first medal of any colour since 1992.

Before Arshad's remarkable victory, Pakistan had never won an individual gold medal at a Summer Games. Prior to Thursday, only two Pakistan athletes had won individual medals of any colour Mohammad Bashir's wrestling bronze in 1960 and Hussain Shah's boxing bronze in 1988.

Arshad's feat makes him perhaps the country's greatest-ever Olympian. With the eyes of the world on him, he fell to the ground in prostration after securing the win, before draping the Pakistan flag over his broad shoulders to celebrate his glory.

"It's an amazing feeling ... to win Olympic gold," a beaming Arshad told reporters afterwards. "I'm thankful to Allah for giving me the fruit of my labour and to all the people back home who prayed for me.



"I'll try to do even better next time around."

Since bursting into the national consciousness at the last Olympics in Tokyo where he finished fifth Arshad has had a tough time with injuries, but has bounced back on each occasion, and won several accolades along the way.

"I would like to say a special word of thanks for Dr Ali Sher Bajwa, who helped me during surgery and rehabilitation, and to my coach Salman Butt who ensured I came back even stronger and better," he said, before adding that his gold medal was an "Independence Day gift for the country".

A share of the cheers at the Stade de France the scene of so many of France's imperious football successes were expectedly reserved for India's Neeraj Chopra, the defending Olympic champion and crowd favourite, interspersed by the din for the women's long jump at the far end of the arena.

Then, they were distracted by the men's 200m final and the hoopla that it brings.

In the midst of all this, Arshad had already made his first throw, a feeble effort with the spear landing well behind any self-respecting thrower's attempt. The watching crowd may have even mistaken it for a trial throw as the javelin competition seemed to halt for the track events, which included the women's heptathlon programme.

"I was feeling so good today that I almost botched up my run-up," Arshad would admit later.

Chopra, too, seemed atypically consumed by the atmosphere, a fine opening throw ruined when he touched the white line with his elbow during his landing scramble. Naturally, all eyes were on the Indian, close rival Julien Weber of Germany and Czech Jakub Vadlejch, who set the pace early. In all this, Arshad seemed forgotten, happy to remain in the shadows and stay there.

Trinidad's Keshorn Walcott's 86.16m throw had seen him take the lead in the opening round and Grenada's Anderson Peters, who ultimately ended up with bronze, notched 87.87m with his second effort. Then came Arshad's moment of magic and history.

Two years ago at the Commonwealth Games, he had thrown 90.18m to clinch gold and here, at the biggest stage, he bettered it.

As the noise of the men's 200m subsided, Arshad the fourth thrower in the line-up galloped in and flung the spear noiselessly and unnoticed. Only the 200m winner, Letslie Tebogo of Botswana seemed to be reminding the world that something special was on its way, when he rang the ceremonial bell just seconds before to celebrate his own fine win. Arshad's fluorescent green spear flew into the now-cooling Stade de France air and dark-

ening skies of Paris, climbing in a most deceptive arc, almost like a jet aircraft on take-off groaning under the weight of excess baggage.

It climbed and climbed, and then suddenly remembered it had a job to do. So, like a guided missile that has identified its target, it changed path and landed, after what seemed an eternity, across the 90m mark.

The whole stadium fell silent, at the other end, Arshad looked on in disbelief, his mouth open and eyes wide. Then the penny dropped, and he let out a silent roar. The crowd erupted, as the Pakistani raised his arms in the air in an early, most untimely triumph. His coach, Salman Butt, jumped with joy in the stands. The contest was good as over. The rest of the field, Chopra included, could pack in their javelins and go home.

But then there's the pride of competing. Arshad's early salvo, even before the javelin field was up and about, jolted the rest into action. Stung, Chopra replied with a similar-looking effort and a 89.45m throw catapulted him immediately into second place, setting up the anticipation of a fine contest between the two South Asians. But the defending champion was having a miserable night, fouling four throws at the start. His second-placing 89.45m Chopra's season's best was his only legitimate throw till the halfway mark.

Arshad, in contrast, need not have bothered. He continued to fling the javelin with decrementing effort and returns thereafter 88.72m, 79.40m, 84.87m somewhat content in the idea that the rest were only playing catch-up, and that they had a lot of catching up to do.

In the end, no one could; in their final throws the sixth, Neeraj fouled again, while Arshad came up with a monstrous 91.79m.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Pakistan, China explore ways to boost defence cooperation

Pakistan and China held high-level military talks, delving into pressing regional security concerns and seeking ways to bolster their defence ties amid a rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape.

“The meeting afforded an opportunity for in-depth discussions on matters of mutual interest, regional security, military training, and measures to further augment bilateral defence cooperation,” according to a readout from Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on the meeting between Army Chief Gen Asim Munir and visiting Commander of the People’s Liberation Army Ground Forces Gen Li Qiaoming at the General Headquarters.

Later, Gen Li called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif.

The talks at the GHQ focused on pressing regional security concerns, including the volatile situation along the Line of Control (LoC), the China-India border tensions, and the evolving dynamics in Kashmir and Afghanistan.

Additionally, the discussions covered Pakistan’s strategic military modernisation efforts, particularly its planned acquisitions from China, underscoring the deepening defence cooperation between the two countries.

The Chinese general’s visit to Pakistan came hot on the heels of his trip to Moscow, a move analysts interpret as Beijing reaching out to its closest defence allies, potentially signalling a coordinated approach to emerging security challenges.

The commander of the PLA’s Ground Force is a pivotal

figure in China’s military hierarchy, responsible for crafting the operational strategy and overseeing the operations of the country’s largest military branch.

This role is uniquely positioned at the nexus of military and political power, ensuring that the PLA’s actions align with the Chinese Communist Party’s strategic objectives.

As such, the commander plays a critical role in harmonising military might with political will, making this position a linchpin of China’s



national security apparatus.

Gen Munir, according to ISPR, during the discussion underscored the robust relations between the Pakistan Army and the People’s Liberation Army, highlighting the ongoing bilateral military cooperation.

The ISPR quoted the Chinese general as praising Pakistan’s fight against terrorism and extremism.

“Trusted friends”

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif warmly welcomed Gen Li to Pakistan and underscored that both countries are all-weather strategic coopera-

tive partners and trusted friends.

The premier highlighted that deep-rooted bilateral ties enjoy broad public, political, and institutional support in Pakistan, making them indispensable for the progress and development of both countries.

PM Shehbaz expressed satisfaction at the deepening military-to-military exchanges, noting that the defence and strategic ties between Pakistan and China are vital for peace and stability in the region. These ties form the

foundation of their bilateral relationship.

Gen Li, in his remarks, affirmed that China, as an iron brother, strategic partner, and reliable friend, places the highest priority on its relationship with Pakistan.

He expressed China’s desire to elevate the friendship to new levels of cooperation and collaboration.

Recognising the role of Pakistan’s armed forces in promoting regional peace and stability and combating terrorism, Gen Li reiterated the PLA’s commitment to further expanding its cooperation

with Pakistan to enhance the capacity building of the two armed forces.

Cornerstone of foreign policy During a call by Gen Li, Minister for Defence and Defence Production Khawaja Muhammad Asif said friendship with China was a cornerstone of Pakistan’s foreign policy based on convergence of views on regional and global issues.

The minister appreciated the long history of Pakistan-China relations in all fields.

He said these relations were focused on welfare of people of both countries and not against any other country.

The minister appreciated existing bilateral mechanisms, like strategic dialogue, consular consultations and counter terrorism consultations. He mentioned that strategic relations between the two nations were based on mutual trust.

Khawaja Asif expressed the view that Pakistan-China security cooperation was a pillar of regional stability.

He reiterated Pakistan was committed to stability and peace in the region, with particular focus on its relations with Afghanistan.

A peaceful Afghanistan was in the interest of Pakistan and the whole region, he added.

The visiting dignitary commended Pakistan’s efforts to foster regional peace and stability.

With additional input from news agencies

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Planning minister Ahsan Iqbal calls for 'sea change' in HEC top tier

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal has raised questions over the performance of the country's higher education institutions involving around Rs450 billion worth of development projects and urged the prime minister to replace the leadership of Higher Education Commission (HEC) with a fresh team having experience and bold vision to address the prevailing challenges.

The minister said that "169 projects with a total cost of Rs446bn and a throw-forward of Rs314bn" were at risk. However, despite his strong criticism of the top HEC management, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif granted one-year extension to the HEC's incumbent chairman a couple of days ago.

In a letter, the planning minister had sensitised the PM that nearly two-thirds of Pakistan's population was below the age of 30 that has to play a pivotal role in shaping the future trajectory of the nation. This significant youth bulge presents both an opportunity and a risk. On one hand, it offers potential for a robust workforce that can drive development, provided that these young individuals are equipped with quality education, good health, and essential skills.

On the other hand, Mr Iqbal said, if these young entrants into the labour force do not receive quality education and are poorly skilled, they will struggle to find decent employment, leading to adverse socio-economic consequences.

Institutions have failed to prepare graduates that meet expectations of employers and industry, Ahsan Iqbal tells PM Pakistan currently faces an acute human development crisis, driven in large part by the poor quality of higher education, he added.

The minister pointed out that a 2023 study by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics revealed that 31 per cent of university graduates were unemployed.

"Research indicates that higher education institutions in Pakistan have failed to prepare their graduates to meet the expectations and demands of employers and industry," he said.

He attributed the "poor performance" to the misalignment of university curricula with industry needs and the rapidly evolving technological landscape, weak regulatory and quality assurance mechanisms, a disconnect between performance and funding of universities, substandard research quality, and weak governance and management within the HEC itself.

### HEC misses targets

The planning minister recalled that the primary mandate and responsibility for ensuring high-quality higher education lays with the HEC. "Unfortunately, the HEC has failed in achieving its objectives and has progressively worsened. This failure persists despite the generous grants it has received from the Government (excepting the years 2018-2021) and the operational autonomy it enjoys."

Mr Iqbal went on to add that during its more than 20 years of existence, the government and international partners sponsored substantial public investments in higher education infrastructure, human resource and faculty development (scholarships, PhDs/Postdocs), accreditation, quality assurance, attestation services, and the National Research Programme for Universities. "Despite these efforts, HEC has failed to achieve its targets," he regretted.

The minister said that after coming to power in 2022, the PML-N government "re-enhanced" funding for HEC. In 2023 alone, the development budget for HEC included 169 projects with a total cost of Rs446bn and a throw-forward of Rs314bn but the restoration of resource allocation had not resulted in any visible improvements in the state of higher education.



Therefore, given the track record of the current senior HEC team, he was seriously concerned that the public funds allocated to HEC were at risk, and the urgency of educational goals remained unmet.

### FPSC's view

Not only this, the HEC has failed to implement effective quality control measures to enhance the employability of graduates. He said the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) had also pointed out that only 393 candidates or 1.94pc could pass written examinations out of at least 20,000 candidates.

"The FPSC has been continually complaining about the falling standards of our education over several years," he said, adding that many candidates were not even familiar with elementary mathematics and many others did not even know the direction of a simple compass, confusing north with south and east with west.

Almost all reports of the FPSC, he said, complained about the absence of analytical skills among the candidates who mostly reproduce "crammed knowledge" but there had been insufficient attention to curriculum reforms and pedagogical changes.

'Centre-provinces disconnect' "Investments in HR development have been random and lack targeted outcomes. Research funds have often been used by faculty members to enhance their CVs rather than solve problems and provide evidence-based public policy," the minister claimed and complained that universities across the provinces suffered from a lack of resources, poor govern-

nance, and inadequate monitoring and evaluation. Additionally, there is a clear federal and provincial disconnect in the higher education sector and among the research community.

The planning minister deplored that there were 28,000 Pakistani citizens enrolled in higher education institutions in China but the HEC is clueless about meeting the HR and skills requirements for CPEC projects. Numerous examples of compromised HEC actions exist, such as unjust team-building processes and whimsical resource allocations.

Mr Iqbal alleged that HEC had failed to conceive and implement strategic projects like the US-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor and University Performance Audits effectively and targets remain unmet.

He said the current administrative stalemate at HEC was primarily due to the incumbent senior management.

"The current chairman has held key positions since 2004, making him the longest-serving head of such an organisation. Despite repeated extensions, the promised outcomes have not materialised, and he bears significant responsibility for the sector's malaise.

"Moreover, the recruitments to senior positions in HEC were made on nepotism," the minister alleged and demanded reforms in the higher education sector through the introduction of a fresh, experienced team with a bold vision and the courage to implement necessary changes.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## State's job to protect people from social media ills: army chief

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir on Wednesday said it was the state's responsibility to protect the public from the negative implications of social media.

According to a statement issued by state broadcaster PTV on social media platform X, the army chief said: "It is the responsibility of the state to keep the public away from the implications of social media-induced hysteria and fitna."

Today's statement was the latest in a long line of warnings from the army chief and the military about the dangers posed by social media.

Over the past couple of years, social media campaigns against the army have escalated, reflecting broader tensions within the country's political and social fabric. The government, often in tandem with the military, has responded with stringent measures aimed at controlling the narrative and stifling dissent.

These measures have led to numerous arrests and legal actions against journalists and social media users accused of spreading "negative propaganda" about the military and the state, resulting in restricted internet access and bans on platforms like X.

In recent statements, the military took a harsh line against criticism on social media, with Gen Munir himself warning that it was being used as a tool to spread anarchy and false information targeting the armed forces.

The term 'digital terrorism' is increasingly being used by the military to describe the use of online spaces by its harshest critics including PTI activists whom it accuses of spreading falsehoods.



In the rest of his remarks today, the army chief said that only a strong relationship between the people, the government and the army guaranteed the country's security and development.

"Those who were creating the narrative of Pakistan's default, where are they today?" the army chief said.

He said the youth were the country's "biggest and most valuable asset" and would not be allowed to "go to waste under any circumstances".

Questioned about last month's spate of tribal violence in Parachinar that left 49 dead, the army chief said the tribes should sit together and help end the various disputes between them.

"The people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa stood like an iron wall against terrorism along with the Pakistan Army for 22 years. I believe that God will grant us victory against terrorism," the COAS said.

### Digital terrorism and social media

In a wide-ranging speech at a parade held to mark Independence Day, the army chief had blamed foreign powers for a wave of 'digital terrorism', which he said aimed to create a gulf between state institutions and the people of Pakistan.

Calling anti-terror activities under the umbrella of vision 'Azm-i-Istehkam' the need of

the hour, Gen Munir vowed that elements trying to create such rifts would only reap disappointment.

On August 8, he had warned that social media was being used as a tool to spread "anarchy".

Earlier month, military spokesperson General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry had said that not enough was being done against "digital terrorism" under the law, allowing fake news and propaganda to spread in the country.



It is the country's law that has to control and curb digital terrorism [but] unfortunately, you can see that lies, propaganda particularly on social media fake news and doctored images continue to spread while confusion is created in the public's mind," he had said.

In May, the army had labelled the growing criticism directed towards it "digital terrorism" and declared a firm commitment to combat and defeat anti-military campaigns proliferating across online platforms.

The statement that marked further stiffening of the stance of the military towards online dissent and suggested an impending crackdown against the critics had come at the end of the 83rd Formation Commanders Conference.

The military's reaction had come against the backdrop of a post on PTI founder Imran Khan's X account in which he urged his followers to study the Hamoodur Rehman Commission Report on the events leading to the separation of East Pakistan.

The term had featured again in the 265th Corps Commanders' Conference on July 5. The attendees had stressed that the "onslaught of politically motivated digital terrorism, unleashed by conspirators, duly abetted by their foreign cohorts against state institutions" was meant to induce "despondency

in the nation and sow discord through peddling of blatant lies, fake news, and propaganda".

Last month, the military spokesperson had said during a press conference that a false narrative was being propagated against the army and its leadership on social media, where "digital terrorists" were using tools such as cell phones, computers, falsehood, and propaganda to impose their will on society "akin to terrorists".

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Efforts on to rescue injured Murad Sadpara from Broad Peak in GB

The Pakistan Army has launched an operation to rescue Murad Sadpara, a climber from Skardu, who met with an accident on the Broad Peak on Sunday morning, according to the military's media wing.

He was working as a guide for a Portuguese female climber during her summit of Broad Peak when he slipped at an altitude of around 5,000m, according to Pakistani mountaineer Naila Kiani, who sought army's help to rescue Mr Sadpara.

She told Dawn that the Portuguese climber had hired the services of Mr Sadpara and a Nepali sherpa for her summit. The team was returning from the summit when Mr Sadpara fell near Camp 1 during bad weather conditions.

Soon after the accident morning, Ms Kiani posted on her Facebook account, seeking the



army's help to rescue the injured climber.

"Murad Sadpara, our top climber and a true legend who helped retrieve the body of Hassan Shigri from K2 bottleneck last week, has met

with an accident on Broad Peak and urgently needs rescue," Ms Kiani wrote while referring to a mission she led earlier this month to retrieve the body of a porter who had died on K2 last year.

Ms Kiani requested the army to send four climbers from Skardu to Broad Peak's "crampon point" to rescue Mr Sadpara.

"Please keep Murad in your prayers for a safe return to Skardu," she added.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations, an Army Aviation helicopter has dropped two experienced climbers at the Broad Peak base camp to rescue Mr Sadpara.

Alpine Club of Pakistan Secretary Karrar Haideri told Dawn that Mr Sadpara's family and Ms Kiani had sought help from the army.

He expressed the hope that the two rescuers would approach the ailing climber in the morning.

Mr Haideri also thanked the army for its prompt action in rescuing the climber.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Baba Bulleh Shah's Urs begins

The 267th three-day annual Urs celebrations of Hazrat Baba Bulleh Shah started at Kasur. Deputy Commissioner Arshad Bhatti and District Police Officer Tariq Aziz, along with members of the civil society, inaugurated the Urs by placing a traditional chadar on the shrine of the great saint and offered Fateha.

He alongwith Auqaf officials and other political personalities offered dua for the development, progress and stability of the country. Addressing a Tasawaf conference, the secretary said that Baba Bulleh Shah believed in peaceful coexistence. He said that Baba Bulleh Shah is a prominent Sufi sage of the 17th century; he has a permanent position in



Punjabi literature and his tone is extremely effective. His thoughts and wisdom were accepted without discrimination of colour, caste, religion

and nationality, he added. A Mehfil-e-Saman, Tasawaf conference and spiritual gatherings will continue during the Urs. Local police

made foolproof security arrangement for the devotees.

*Courtesy: Dawn*

## Lifesaving blood donation camp held at PMC

The Social Welfare Society of Peshawar Medical College (PMC) and Peshawar Dental College (PDC), in collaboration with Hamza Foundation, organised a blood donation camp here at PMC.

The camp saw a remarkable turnout of both male and female volunteers who came forward to donate blood for a noble cause.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by the presence of Prof Dr Aman, Principal of Peshawar Medical College, Prof Dr Mohsina Haq, chairperson of the Social Welfare Society, Prof Dr Mian Ihsanullah, Prof Fozia Rauf, and Prof Ashraf, along with his team from Hamza Foundation.

Their presence highlighted the significance of the event and encouraged participants to actively contribute to this lifesaving initiative.



The blood donation camp was a resounding success, with a total of 140 pints of blood collected. Additionally, a donation of Rs20,400 was made in support of the cause.

This initiative not only raised awareness about the importance of blood donation but also fostered a sense of community and social responsibility among the students and staff of PMC and PDC.

Train operations suspended as Sir Syed Express derails near Rohri

Shields and certificates were distributed to the volunteers as tokens of appreciation and encouragement.

*Courtesy: The Nation*



## Punjab government intensifies wildlife protection

Under Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's directives, Punjab government has launched a rigorous operation to protect endangered wildlife. The Wildlife Department successfully recovered a rare snow leopard skin and arrested the suspect involved in this criminal activity. The snow leopard skin is valued at \$20,000, approximately 5.6 million Pakistani Rupees.

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb appreciated the Wildlife Department and police teams for their swift action and reiterated the



government's zero-tolerance policy on wildlife law violations. She also stressed the importance of wildlife and forest conservation in combating climate change.

The arrested individual was involved in the illegal trade of endangered animal skins on social the media. Pakistan, home to a critically endangered population of 300 to 400 snow leopards, is part of global efforts to preserve the species. Punjab is now enforcing strict wildlife protection laws and has initiated digital mapping of forests and wildlife under CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's directive and dynamic leadership. The digital mapping programme of forests and wildlife has been modelled on the pattern of developed nations.

*Courtesy: Business Recorder*

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